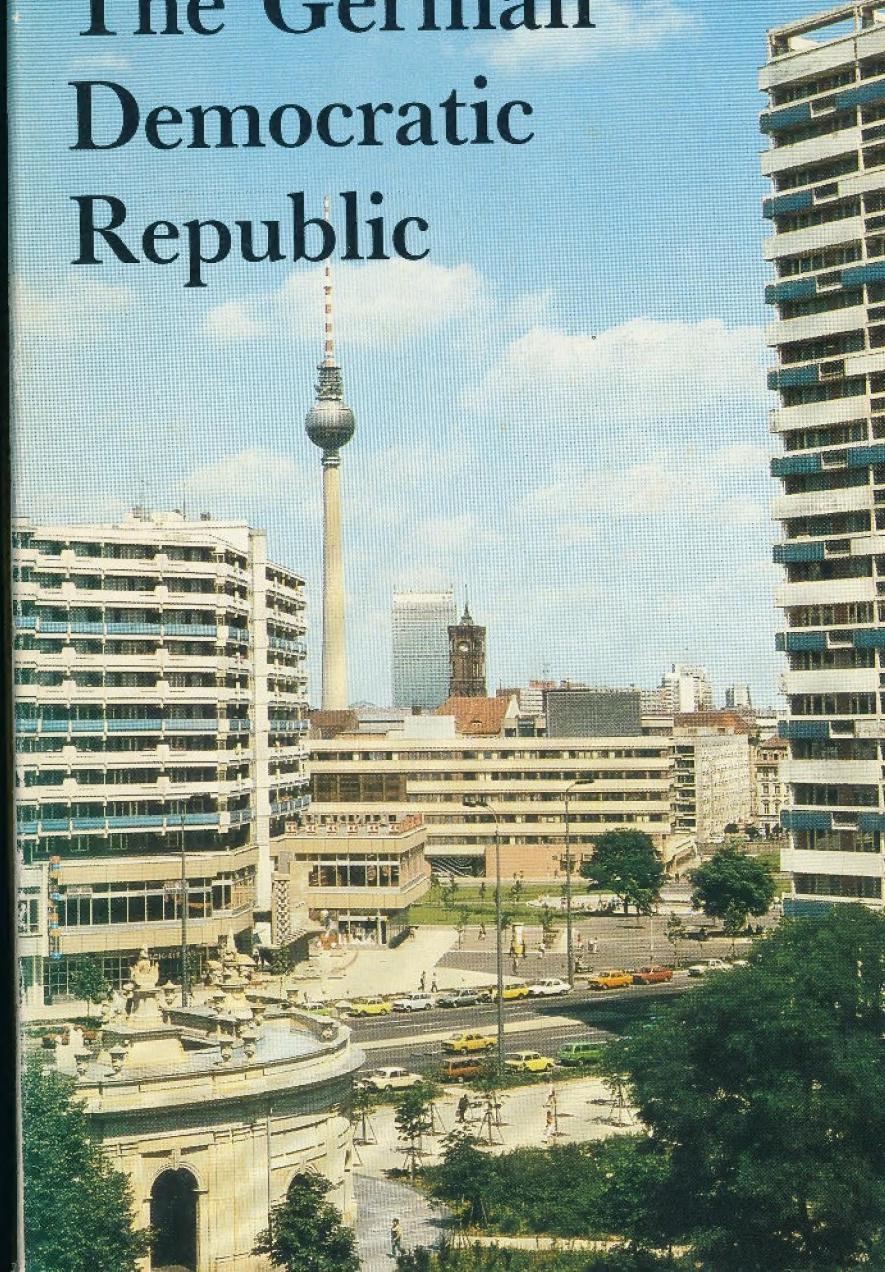


The German Democratic Republic



The German Democratic Republic



PANORAMA DDR

Cover: Berlin city centre

Back cover: Pedestrian precinct in Karl Marx Stadt

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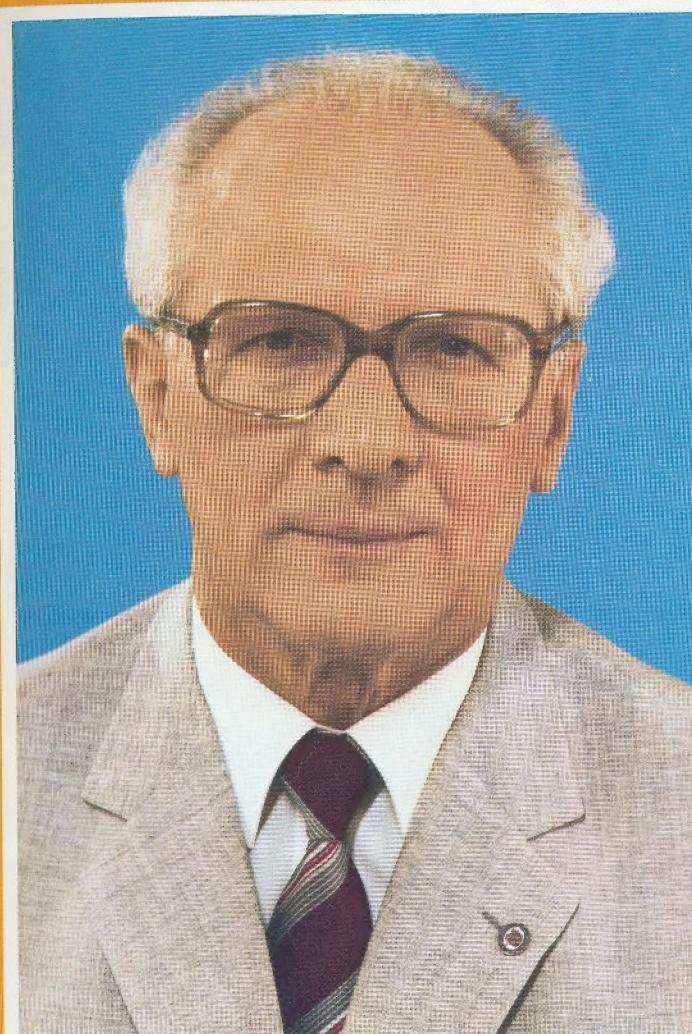
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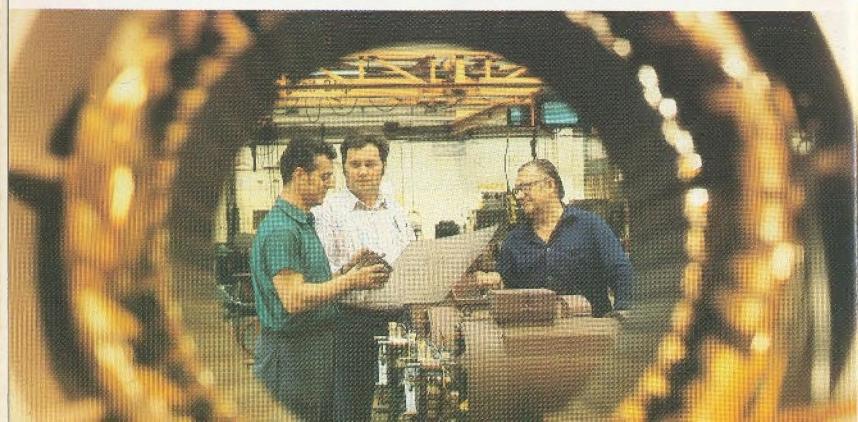
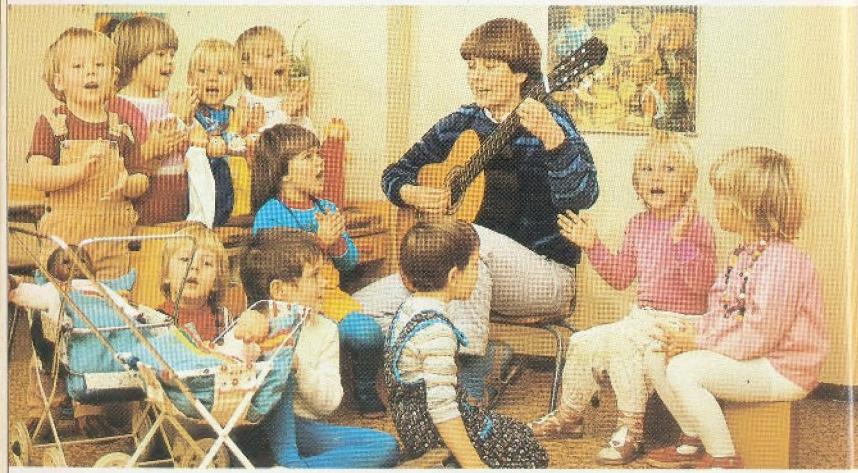
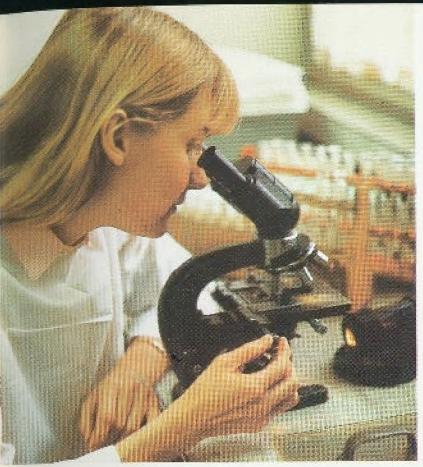
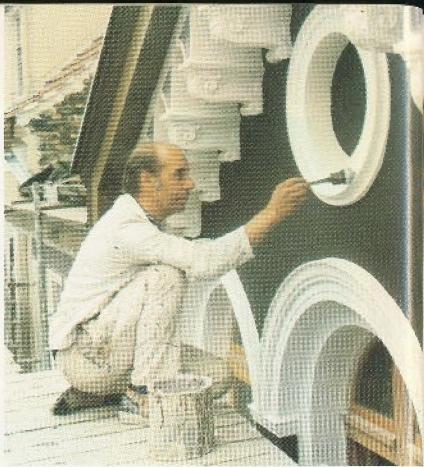
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...the development of the productive forces and socialist relations of production have enabled our people to attain a standard of living without precedent in their history. Unemployment is a concept from a different, alien world. Material comfort, a sense of security, full employment and equal educational opportunities for all children are a matter of course. For us, the highest priority is to preserve peace and, hence, assure our future existence.

Erich Honecker

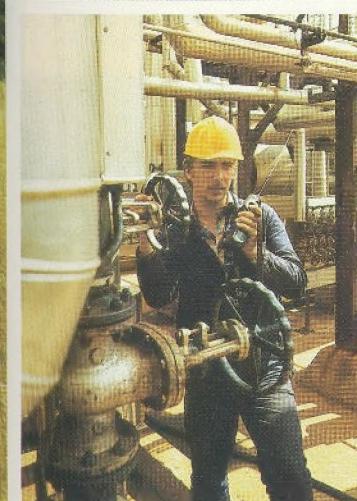
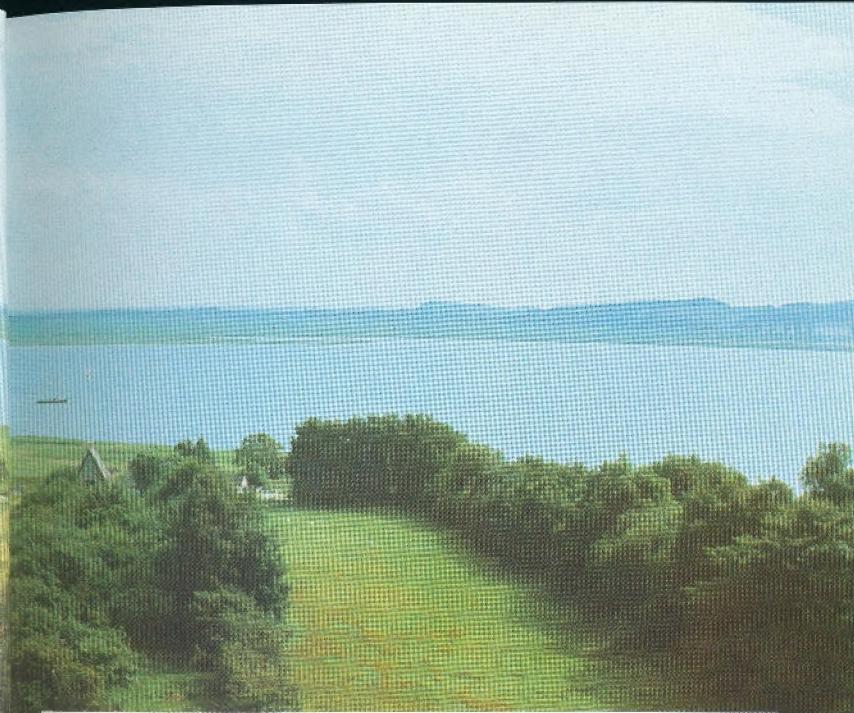


Erich Honecker,
General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and
Chairman of the GDR Council of State.





The Baltic coast, the centre of GDR shipbuilding and a popular holiday and recreation area.



The island of Rügen (above) presents a charming landscape to residents and visitors alike.

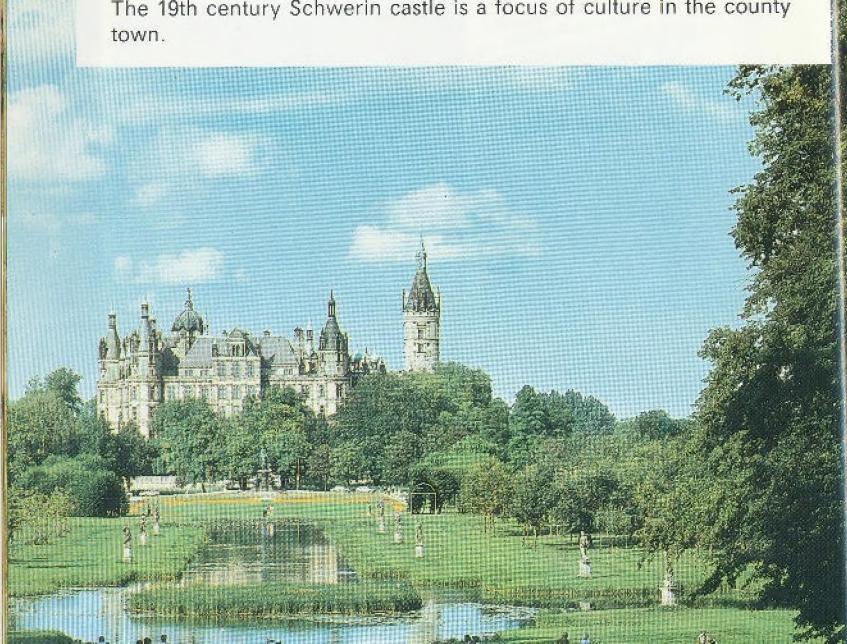




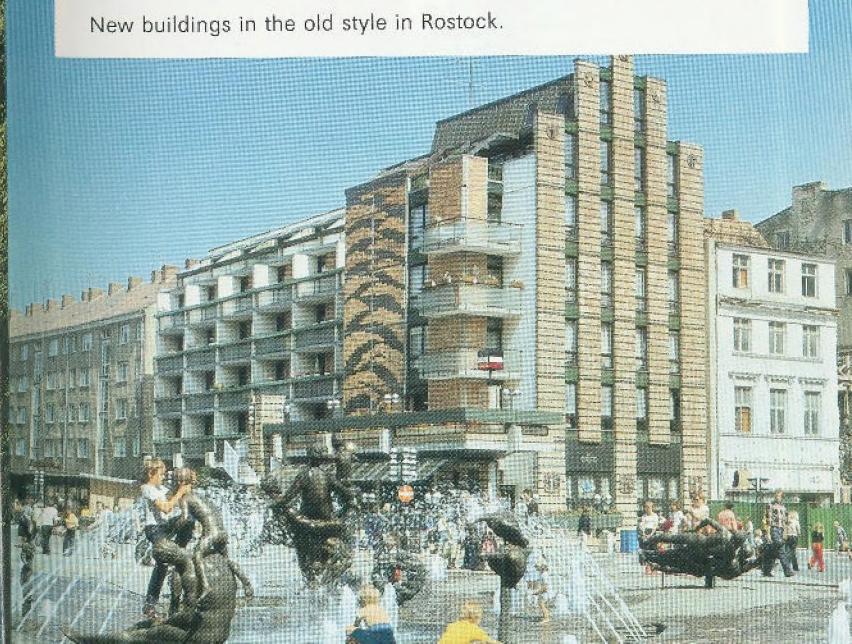
Harvesting in Neubrandenburg county.



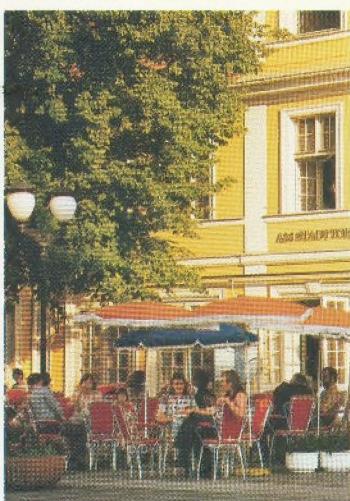
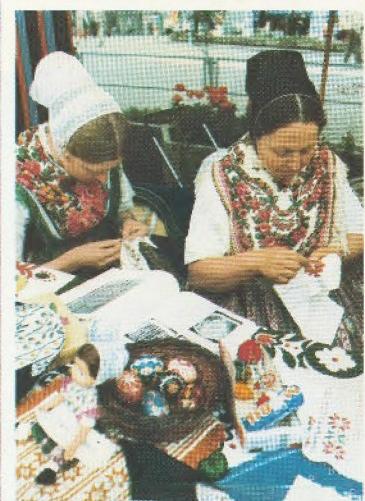
Holidaying on the Baltic.



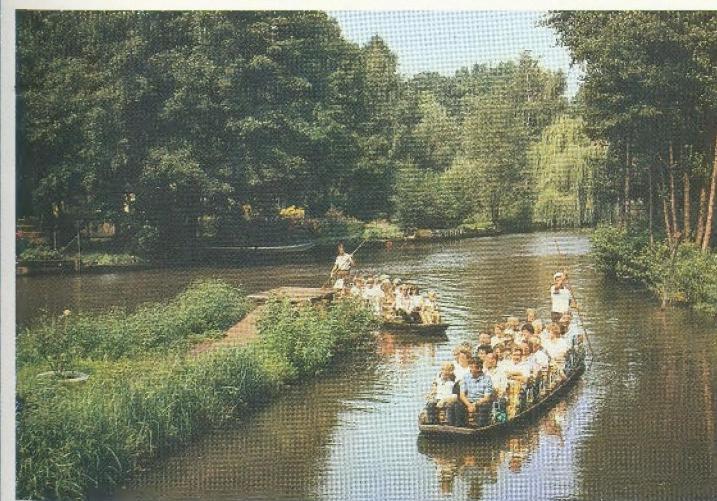
The 19th century Schwerin castle is a focus of culture in the county town.



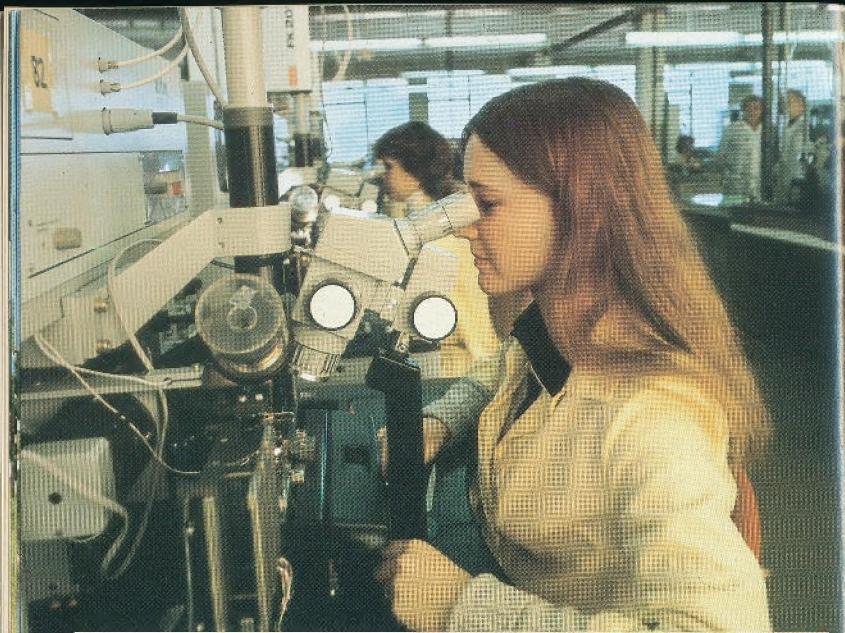
New buildings in the old style in Rostock.



The county town of Potsdam (above and right). The Sorbs, the GDR's only national minority, enjoy equal rights. (left)



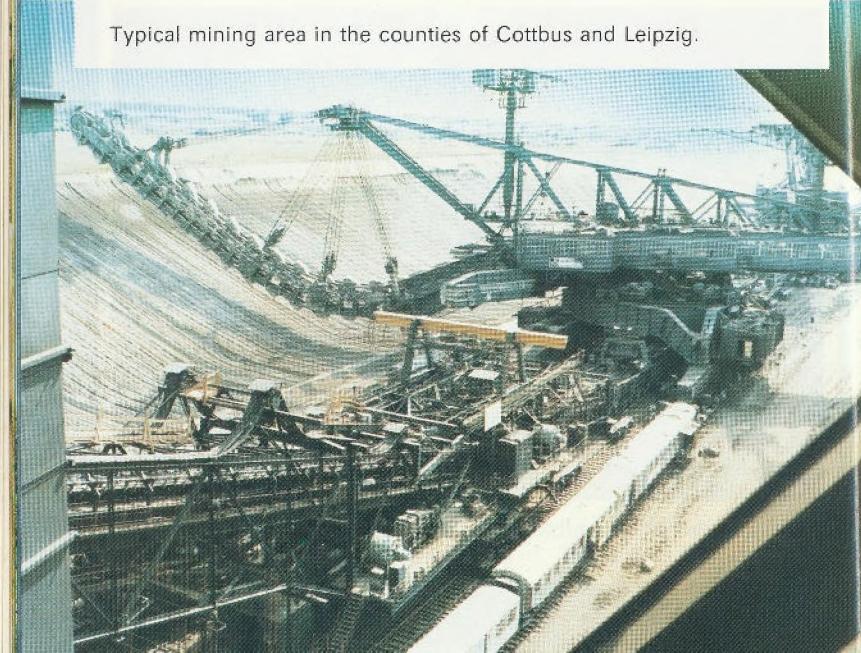
The Spreewald, a meadowland area unique in the GDR, is covered with numerous rivulets.



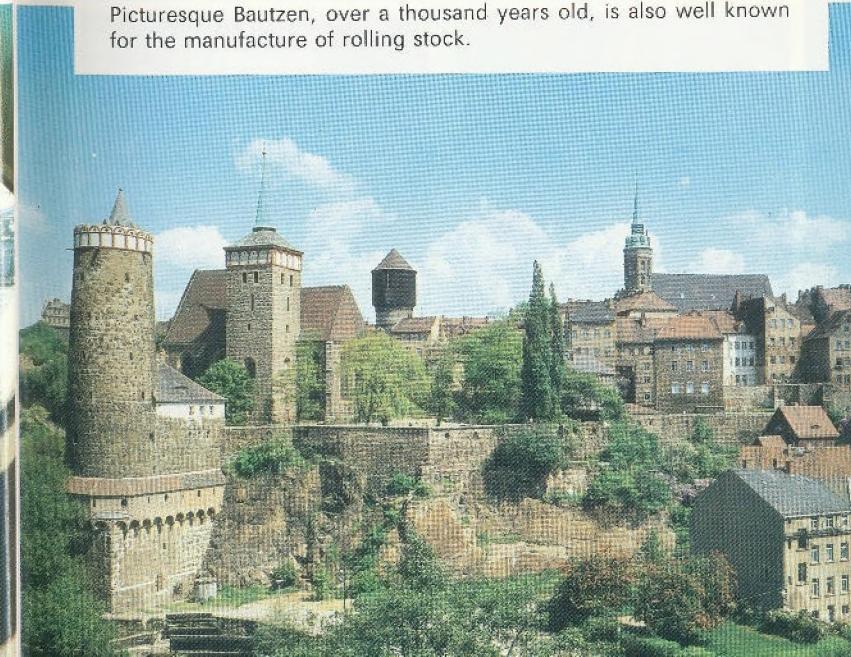
The semiconductor works in Frankfurt (Oder), a leader in microelectronics.



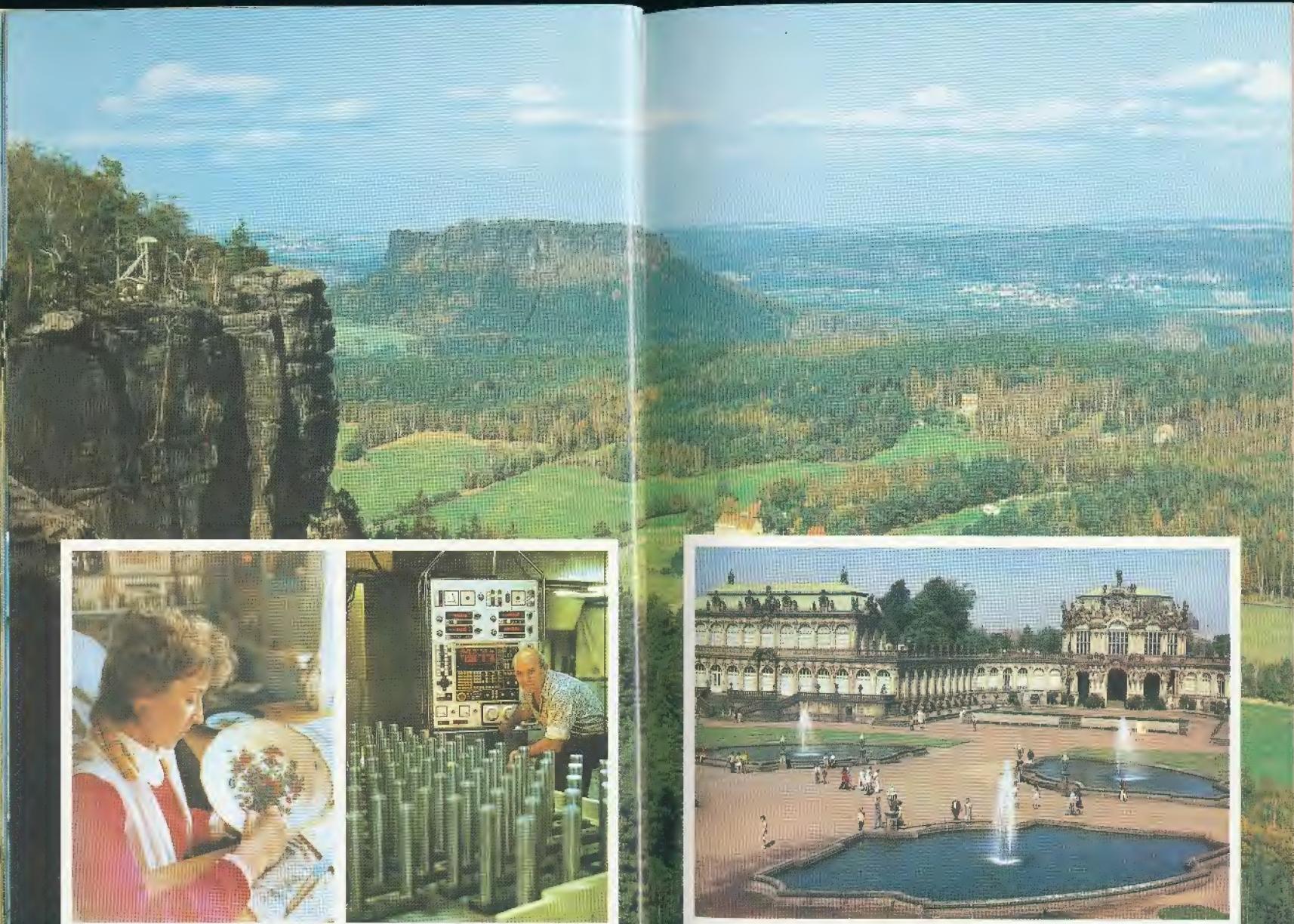
Relaxation in one of Leipzig's parks.



Typical mining area in the counties of Cottbus and Leipzig.



Picturesque Bautzen, over a thousand years old, is also well known for the manufacture of rolling stock.

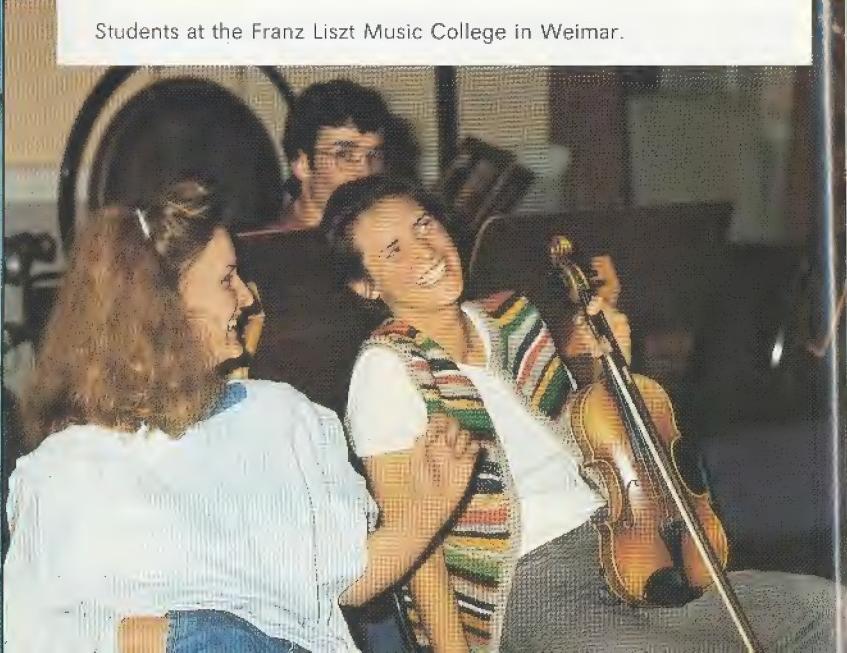


Saxon Switzerland (above). Porcelain painter in Meissen (left). Metalworking combine in Erfurt. (right)

The Zwinger in Dresden, now completely restored, has regained its old splendour.



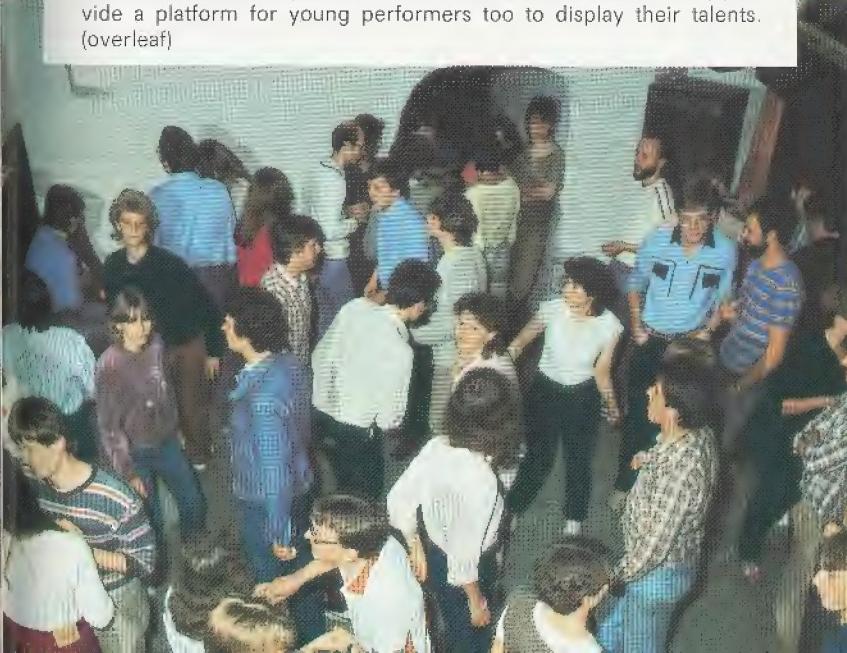
Ulf Timmermann, world-record shot putter.



Students at the Franz Liszt Music College in Weimar.



Private garden scene.
Student disco.
Concerts in the courtyard of Berlin's Museum of German History provide a platform for young performers too to display their talents.
(overleaf)





History

Progressive traditions

German history has known progressive and reactionary developments. It is a history of successes and defeats for the forces of progress. Often the defeats suffered by German revolutionaries in their struggle for a humanist German state, for freedom, democracy and socialism have had tragic consequences for Europe and the world at large.

The German Democratic Republic has dissociated itself from everything reactionary once and for all and upholds all progressive traditions. It acknowledges both the progressive and the darker chapters of German history and appreciates all its progressive achievements. It acts in the awareness that the revolutionary peasantry, the progressive bourgeoisie, the German working-class movement, above all the League of Communists followed by revolutionary Social Democrats and the Communist Party, have, through their struggle for social progress, essentially contributed to preparing the triumph of socialism on German soil. The GDR commemorates the deeds and victims of the struggle for freedom waged over the centuries, since the dawn of German history. These are the traditions the GDR upholds.



The emergence of the first German state

The early roots of progressive traditions stretch back to the time when German tribes, which were the ancestors of the German people, successfully opposed total subjugation to the Roman empire and thus contributed to the decline of slave-owner society. In the Middle Ages, repeated peasant revolts and the struggle of the citizenry for the independence of the cities from aristocratic rule paved the way of social progress. Representatives of the feudal class also helped push forward historical progress. King Henry I 919–936 created the first German state which accelerated the process of the various tribes growing together to become one German people. The names of Walther von der Vogelweide (fig.) and Wolfram von Eschenbach (both around 1200) are associated with the period when German literature first really flourished.



Reformation and Peasant War

The Reformation and the Peasant War (1517–1526) were particularly important events with regard to spurring progressive thinking. With his reformatory ideas Martin Luther inveighed against the Roman Catholic Church. His translation of the Bible was of crucial importance for the emergence of modern standard German. In the German Peasant War from 1524–1526 the popular masses under their leader Thomas Müntzer tried, for the first time in history, to change society by means of revolution. The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) was a severe setback in Germany's development. As a result the country's continued fragmentation into numerous principalities was assured. The Kingdom of Prussia developed into a state of its own excelling in economic strength and military power.



Effects of the French Revolution

The French bourgeois revolution (1789–1795) shook the feudal system in Germany as well. In Mainz the first bourgeois-democratic state on German soil was founded in 1793.

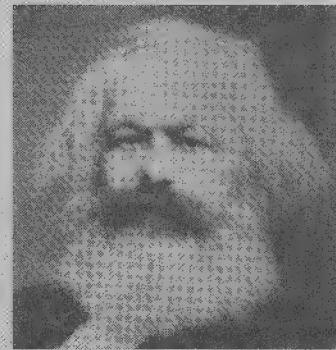
The wars waged by Napoleon brought national oppression which most severely impeded progressive developments. Through rural, administrative and military reforms and measures to promote the sciences Baron von Stein, Gerhard von Scharnhorst (fig.), Neithardt von Gneisenau, Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt opened up the way for a progressive development of Prussian society. The liberation war of 1813 abolished foreign rule. The spiritual achievements of the new era included the great works by Lessing, Goethe, Schiller, Kant, Hegel, Mozart and Beethoven.



For a democratic Germany

Together with capitalist industry there emerged the working class. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels (fig. p. 28) firmly sided with the new emergent class which articulated its demands for the first time in Germany during the Silesian weavers' revolt of 1844. Marx and Engels made science a weapon in the liberation struggle of that class. They founded the theory of scientific communism, a theory to change the world, and established the first political party of the proletariat, the League of Communists. Upon commission of the League, Marx and Engels wrote the *Communist Manifesto* in 1847/48. Originally the programme of a small group of revolutionaries, it was to become the guideline for millions of exploited and oppressed people all over the world.

In the bourgeois-democratic revolution of 1848–49 the people rose to shake off the reactionary rule of the nobility and to over-



come Germany's fragmentation into countless feudal states. The most consistent demands came from the **League of Communists**. Although the revolution was betrayed by the bourgeoisie and crushed by counter-revolutionary armies, it brought about the final decline of the feudal system and the development of capitalism in Germany.

Assisted by Marx and Engels, in the late 1860s August Bebel and Wilhelm Liebknecht created the first proletarian mass party on the theoretical basis of Marxism. The Eisenach party (named after the place of its foundation) united with the General German Workers' Association founded by Ferdinand Lassalle to form the Socialist Workers' Party of Germany. Prohibition of the party and persecution of its members under the Anti-Socialist Law (1878–1890) could not halt the advance of the revolutionary German Social Democrats.

After negotiations between the Prussian Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, and the rulers of the south German principalities the

German Reich was created in 1871. This meant the birth of the bourgeois German national state. The process of the formation of the bourgeois German nation had come to an end. The establishment of the Reich ended territorial fragmentation and hence created more favourable conditions for capitalist development and proletarian struggle. However, the new state retained the rule of Prussian militarism and the reactionary Junkers because it was not born out of a democratic revolution but a "revolution from above" under Prussia's leadership.



The struggle against the war and the outbreak of the November Revolution

The German Reich saw a rapid development of capitalism. The ruling classes in Germany wanted the world to be "redistributed" to their advantage. They bear the main responsibility for the First World War (1914–1918). Millions of people were misled by the lie that the Germans had to defend themselves against a "world of enemies".

The Left in the German working-class movement, however, continued their struggle. Karl Liebknecht's brave words, "the main enemy is inside the country", were to become their motto. Despite terror and persecution, unswerving revolutionaries explained to the working class the imperialist nature of the war and made preparations to end that war by a popular revolution.

The Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1917, which ushered in a new epoch in the history of mankind, had strong repercussions in Germany as

well. In the November Revolution of 1918 workers, peasants and soldiers brought about the downfall of the monarchy and secured important democratic rights. Because of the treasonable attitude of the right-wing leaders of the German Social Democrats it was not possible, though, to eliminate the rule of the monopoly capitalists, big landowners and reactionary military officers. "The Kaiser left, but the generals stayed" were the words that correctly described the situation in the bourgeois Weimar Republic which was founded in 1919.

During the November Revolution the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) was founded. The murder of its leaders, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, in January 1919 was a severe loss to the young party. Under the leadership of Ernst Thälmann the KPD developed into a strong party with deep roots among the people.



Nazism and the Second World War

At a very early stage the KPD warned of the looming danger of fascism. It worked for a united front of the working class and joint efforts of all anti-fascist forces. In 1932 the KPD invited Social Democrats, trade unionists, Christians and democratically-minded members of the middle classes to join in the Antifascist Action in order to prevent the Nazis from taking over the reigns of government. Some right-wing leaders of the Social Democratic Party and the trade union organizations, however, rejected all offers by the KPD. The bourgeois parties, losing increasing numbers of voters to the Nazi party, gave way to the fascists. In late 1932 influential industrialists, bankers and landowners invited President Paul von Hindenburg to appoint the leader of the Nazi party, Adolf Hitler, Chancellor of the Reich. This happened in January 1933. Government was now in the hands of the Nazi party.

whose programme best met the interests of the most reactionary quarters of German monopoly capital, the big landowners and military leaders. The Nazi dictatorship unleashed an unprecedented reign of terror against communists and other antifascists. Its domestic goal was to smash the revolutionary German working-class movement; its foreign policy goal was to establish the world domination of German imperialism and, first and foremost, to wipe the Soviet Union off the face of the earth. This was accompanied by the brutal persecution of the Jewish population.

The Nazis resorted to anticommunist, anti-Soviet and anti-Semitic defamations and cleverly thought-out social demagogic camouflage their war preparations. Millions of Germans fell victim to Nazi propaganda. Nevertheless, antifascists, with the communists at their head, members of the Social Democratic Party,

bourgeois democrats, intellectuals and clergy people continued the struggle under unbelievably hard conditions and constant persecution. They worked underground, from prisons, in concentration camps and in exile for the unity of all antifascist forces to overthrow Hitler's regime. They combined their antifascist resistance struggle with the elaboration of concepts for creating a democratic and peace-loving German state after the defeat of fascism.

On 1 September 1939 Nazi Germany invaded Poland and unleashed the Second World War. Considerable initial successes were possible because German imperialism had been making intensive preparations for its war of aggression for a long time. On 22 June 1941 the fascist armies invaded the Soviet Union. In the USSR, Poland, Yugoslavia, France, Greece and other countries millions of people fell victim to the fascist regime of exploitation and extermination.

However, the nations fighting for their freedom and independence proved to be stronger. By the end of 1941 an anti-Hitler coalition of peoples and states was formed to oppose fascist aggression. Its principal force was the Soviet Union. About two thirds of all fascist divisions were concentrated on the Soviet-German front. Here the battles were fought which were to have a decisive impact on the outcome of the war. The heroic struggle of the Soviet army and the people of the Soviet Union, who had to bear the main brunt of the war,

and sacrificed most, turned the tide and opened the way for victory over the fascist aggressors.

In July 1943 the National Committee 'Free Germany' was founded in the Soviet Union on the initiative of the KPD. Its members were communists, social democrats, Christians, bourgeois democrats and officers and soldiers of the fascist armed forces who had learned the lessons of history.

Tens of thousands of the best sons and daughters of the German people fell victim to the fascist terror, among them Ernst Thälmann (fig.), John Schehr, Anton Saefkow, Theodor Neubauer and many other communists, social democrats such as Rudolf Breitscheid and Wilhelm Leuschner, patriotically-minded officers like Harro Schulze-Boysen and Count Schenk von Stauffenberg, Christians like Dean Bernhard Lichtenberg and theology professor Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It was the struggle of and the sacrifice made by antifascists that saved the honour of the German people.

Liberation and an antifascist and democratic new start

On 8 May 1945 the representatives of the Nazi Wehrmacht High Command signed the unconditional surrender in Karlshorst, a suburb of Berlin. Through their liberation the German people were given the opportunity to build an antifascist and democratic Germany.

In accordance with allied agreements, four zones of occupation were created in Germany – Soviet, American, British and French. An Allied Control Council was constituted from the supreme commanders of the four occupation powers' armed forces and based in Berlin. The Council was to coordinate the activities of the four powers. The supreme commanders held authority in their respective zone of occupation.

As early as June 1945, the Soviet Military Administration in Germany (SMAD) authorized the formation of antifascist and democratic parties and mass organizations. The Communist Party of Germany addressed a manifesto to the German people on 11 June 1945 in order to lead the country out of its plight. It called for unity of the working class, joint efforts by all democratic forces and for the complete elimination of fascism and militarism. The KPD linked its actions to overcome misery and normalize social life with efforts for a new beginning along antifascist and democratic lines. Progressive elements in the Social Democratic Party (SPD) had learned from the experience of fascism and war that unity of the working class was imperative for a democratic transformation to take place in Germany. Far-reaching agreement on fundamental goals and objectives enabled close cooperation between the KPD and the SPD.

Members of the upper and lower middle classes, including committed Christians, began to organize themselves in political parties. In late June 1945 the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) and the Liberal Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD) were founded in Berlin. In their founding charters the two parties

laid their antifascist objectives and endorsed united action by all antifascist and democratic parties.

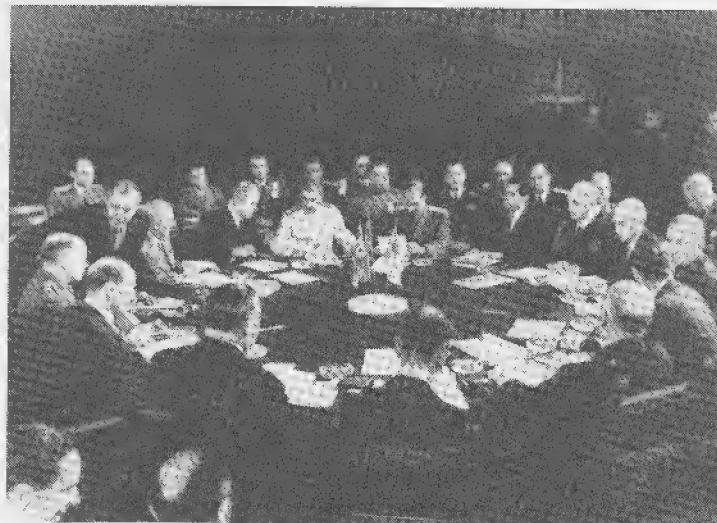
On 14 July 1945 the KPD, SPD, CDU and LDPD formed a bloc of antifascist and democratic parties (known as the Democratic Bloc since 1949) to unite efforts in the struggle for a peace-loving, antifascist and democratic Germany.

Apart from political parties, the first mass organizations were formed: the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB), the League of Culture uniting cultural workers and intellectuals dedicated to a democratic renewal of Germany as well as youth and women's committees.

The Potsdam Agreement. From 17 July to 2 August 1945, the heads of government of the victorious allied powers, the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain, met in Potsdam for negotiations on the future of Germany. Their decisions, to which France later subscribed, were aimed at preserving German unity and completely uprooting German fascism. For this purpose, the property and power relations as well as the social, political, economic and cultural life of the German people were to be profoundly transformed and antifascist and democratic conditions to be created in the whole of Germany. Reparations were imposed on the German people as partial compensation for the damage wrought by the fascists. In the interest of safeguarding peace, the Potsdam Agreement contained stipulations on the future German-Polish border along the Oder and Neisse rivers.

Establishment of new state authorities. As early as summer 1945 new administrative bodies were formed. Antifascists purged the economy and the civil service of fascist war criminals. The key positions in the new organs of power were occupied by proven antifascists representing all political parties. A reform of the legal system was undertaken and a police force set up that served the interests of the working people.

Democratic land reform. Within a remarkably short span of time a democratic land reform was carried through (from autumn 1945 to 1946). For this task land reform commissions were estab-



Potsdam Conference of the leaders of the three Allied powers—the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States—from 17 July to 2 August 1945 in Schloss Cecilienhof. (Centre rear Joseph Stalin, right Harry Truman, left Clement Attlee)

blished, numbering more than 52,000 peasants, agricultural and industrial workers among their members. Large estates of over 100 hectares (250 acres) and land belonging to nazi activists and war criminals were expropriated without compensation. In this way more than 3.3 million hectares of land became available for redistribution. A total of more than 550,000 farmhands, resettlers from the former eastern territories of Germany, industrial and office workers, craftsmen and smallholders received new land and 1.1 million hectares remained public property and were allotted to state farms, state forestry enterprises and research institutions. The rural population created its own democratic mass organization, the Mutual Farmers' Aid Association.

School reform. In autumn 1945, a school reform was carried through in order to create a single state school system affording all children the same right to education. 40,000 young workers, farm-

ers and other working people were approached for retraining. Within a short space of time they were trained and started working as "new teachers". Former protagonists of the fascist ideology were dismissed from schools, colleges and universities. Management, the faculties, syllabuses and the student population itself were reorganized along democratic lines. Particular efforts were made to assist more children from workers' and farmers' families to gain admission to higher education. The centuries-old privilege of the property-owning class to education was broken.

A new start in the field of culture was made by purging the press, radio, film and publishing industries, theatres, and museums of fascist and racist ideologies and passing them over into public ownership. Works of the national cultural heritage were made accessible to the people again or were published for the first time free of falsifications (works by Lessing, Goethe, Schiller, Heine). Antifascist writers like Johannes R. Becher, Bertolt Brecht, Willi Bredel, Heinrich Mann, Thomas Mann, Anna Seghers and Plebiscite in Saxony on 30 June 1946 on the bill to expropriate war and Nazi criminals.



Erich Weinert made valuable contributions to educating many people in a spirit of democracy.

The League of Culture which was founded by progressive intellectuals in 1946 grew into a nationwide cultural organization.

Foundation of the SED. While the progressive forces suffered their first setbacks in the struggle for the unity of the working class in the western zones of occupation, workers in the Soviet zone of occupation pressed increasingly for the amalgamation of the KPD and the SPD into one united revolutionary party.

United actions to establish new bodies of state authority, to implement the land reform and to reform the education system produced growing mutual trust. More and more members of the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party recognized the strength of unity.

The two parties decided to establish one united party. Its objectives and the nature of the unity party were stipulated in a document entitled "The purposes and principles of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany" and in the party's constitution.

On 21 and 22 April 1946, 548 Social Democratic and 507 Communist delegates met in Berlin and unanimously decided to unite the two parties and form the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The congress elected Wilhelm Pieck of the KPD and Otto Grotewohl of the SPD as chairmen of the party and vested them with equal rights.

Creation of a public industrial sector. Following a plebiscite in Saxony on 30 June 1946, in the Soviet zone of occupation a total of 9,281 enterprises, including 4,000 industrial establishments owned by nazi activists and war criminals, were confiscated without compensation. They included all large enterprises and former arms factories throughout the Soviet zone of occupation. The expropriated enterprises were passed over into public ownership which was to become the basis of the economic power of the working class.

The parties which were politically allied with the SED underwent important progressive developments. In 1948 another two

parties with mass influence were founded, the Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany (DBD) and the National Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD). They, as well as the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB), the Free German Youth organization (FDJ) and the Women's Democratic Federation of Germany (DFD), were admitted as members of the Democratic Bloc.

The division of Germany

Communists and many other antifascists made efforts to promote democratic renewal in all zones of occupation. The occupation authorities in the Western zones, however, left the economic power of the German monopoly corporations intact. They prohibited initiatives which would have resulted in the expropriation of war criminals and nazi activists. The USA, Great Britain and France, together with bourgeois politicians and right-wing social democrats, set out in 1947 to divide Germany. In September 1946 the United States and Great Britain announced the merger of their zones of occupation. In June 1948 a currency reform was carried through in the Western zones of occupation resulting in the introduction of the dollar-based Deutschmark. When a Federal government was formed in September 1949 with Konrad Adenauer as Federal Chancellor the political division of Germany was a fait accompli. The Federal Republic of Germany was established in breach of the Potsdam Agreement.

The founding of the German Democratic Republic

The establishment of the West German separate state had created a completely new situation. The FRG claimed to be the sole successor of the German Reich and the representative of all Germans. The working class and its allies in eastern Germany needed a sovereign state of their own to defend the achievements of the antifascist and democratic transformation.

On 7 October 1949 the People's Council, the leading body of the People's Congress Movement for unity and just peace, met in Berlin. The Council represented the political alliance between the working class and all other sectors of society. At its session, the Council unanimously decided to constitute itself as the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic. It enacted the Constitution and elected a government. Upon a joint proposal of all parliamentary groups Wilhelm Pieck was elected President of the Republic. The government, headed by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, included members of the SED as well as of the other parties in the Democratic Bloc.

The administrative functions which until then had been performed by the Soviet military authorities were transferred to the new government.

The foundation of the GDR ushered in a completely new chapter of German history. For the first time ever, an independent state came into existence which was created by the working class and all other working people. In its first declaration the government of the GDR committed itself to peace, social progress and friendship with the Soviet Union and all peace-loving nations.

In 1950 the GDR and Poland signed an agreement fixing their joint border at the Oder-Neisse line once and for all, as laid down in the Potsdam Agreement.

Almost at the same time the GDR was founded the National Front was created as a broad and democratic popular movement. From the outset, this movement represented the alliance between the working class and all social groups of the GDR's population. The National Front identified as its main tasks the consolidation of the GDR and the reunification of Germany on a democratic basis.

How the foundations of socialism were laid

One of the most important tasks to be solved by the newly established workers' and farmers' state was to rebuild a strong econ-

From the Peace Protection Act of 15 December 1950

GESETZBLATT der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik

1950	Berlin, den 22. Dezember 1950	Nr. 141
Tag	Inhalt	Seite
15.12.50	Über das Gesetz zum Schutze der Freundschaft	1108

Article 1

Whosoever vituperates against other peoples or races, stirs up hatred against them, calls for a boycott against them to disturb peaceful relations between peoples or entangles the German people in a new war, shall be punished with imprisonment and, in serious cases, with hard labour.

Article 2

(1) Whosoever propagates acts of aggression, notably a war of aggression, or otherwise incites to war, whosoever recruits, encourages or incites German nationals to participate in warlike acts for the purpose of oppressing another nation, shall be punished with imprisonment and, in serious cases, with hard labour.

Article 4

Whosoever glorifies or propagates the use of atomic weapons, or other means of mass destruction such as poison, radioactive, chemical or bacteriological agents shall be punished with imprisonment and, in serious cases, with hard labour.

omy. The extremely disproportionate state of development in industry, resulting from the past and exacerbated by the division of Germany, had to be overcome. An effective metallurgical basic industry was set up with assistance from the Soviet Union, heavy engineering expanded and a start was made on building a merchant fleet during the first five-year plan from 1950-55. In the second half of the 1950s a number of big power stations were built. Other priorities were the development of the country's raw materials basis and chemical industry.

In 1950 the GDR became a member of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). Its participation in the CMEA proved to be a fundamental prerequisite for the further development of the GDR's national economy.

Agricultural production cooperatives. The first agricultural production cooperatives were set up in 1952. This initiated the transition from individual farming to large-scale socialist production in agriculture. As a result, food supplies improved and gradually the backwardness of the countryside was overcome. Any questions concerning the development of the cooperatives were discussed with the cooperative farmers. By 1960 the transition to cooperative production in agriculture was completed.

Craft production cooperatives. First production cooperatives were also formed by craftspeople. Retail traders made arrangements on a commission basis with the public trading sector. Private owners of industrial, construction and transport firms invited the state to act as joint proprietor of their businesses. This helped to involve these sectors of society in socialist construction.

In 1949 workers' and farmers' faculties were set up and played a particularly important role in training a socialist intelligentsia. By the time they were abolished in the early 1960s, some 30,000 young workers and farmers had attended courses at these faculties to qualify for higher education.

Economic development made it possible to improve living conditions. Between 1950 and 1960 real income more than doubled. The working week in industry and in the transport and communi-

cations sector was reduced to 45 hours in 1957 with no loss of wages.

Rearmament in the FRG and the country's integration into NATO in 1955 cemented the division of Germany. In May 1955 the European socialist countries signed the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance. Since its formation in 1956 the GDR's National People's Army has been integrated in the Warsaw Treaty organization.

The GDR and the FRG had become members of the two opposing world systems and developed according to mutually irreconcilable social principles.

After the death of President Wilhelm Pieck on 7 September 1960 the People's Chamber decided to establish a Council of State to act as collective head of state. Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the SED Central Committee, was elected Chairman of the Council which was composed of representatives of all political parties and mass organizations.

Enormous economic and political damage was caused to socialist construction in the GDR by the open border with the FRG and Berlin (West). On 13 August 1961 the National People's Army and the workers' militia, which had been formed in 1953, together with other armed bodies of the GDR assumed control over the border which had been open until that point. The action had been agreed with the other Warsaw Treaty countries.

On the road towards building an advanced socialist society

After the fundaments of socialism had been established it became both possible and necessary to systematically develop and shape the emergent new society.

Economy. In the 1960s priority was given to the development of those industrial branches which were best suited to conditions in the GDR and the requirements of scientific and technological progress. They included the chemical industry, notably petro-

chemistry, electrical engineering and electronics. The late 1960s saw the foundation of the first combines in the public industrial sector, which were soon to become pace setters in terms of effectiveness. In the rural sector, the agricultural cooperatives were consolidated and increasingly worked together on the basis of inter-cooperative agreements. Economic progress allowed the introduction of measures to improve working and living conditions of the people. The five-day working week was gradually introduced in 1966-67.

The People's Chamber adopted in 1965 the Law on the Integrated Socialist Education System. Most important was the establishment of the ten-class polytechnical school as a compulsory school for all children.

Friendship treaties. In the sixties, the GDR concluded treaties of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance with the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria, and, in 1972, with Romania. Economic cooperation with the other CMEA member countries considerably increased, particularly so with the Soviet Union. At that time, the trade agreement with the USSR for the period from 1966 to 1970 was regarded as the most comprehensive such contract in the history of world trade.

Socialist constitution. In a plebiscite in April 1968, 94.5 per cent of all those eligible to vote gave their support to the new socialist constitution. The Constitution, which was extended and amended again in 1974, defines the GDR as a socialist state of workers and farmers, as the political organization of working people in town and countryside, led by the working class and its party. The Constitution is based on the notion that the socialist German nation is developing in the GDR.

Moves to normalize relations with the FRG. It became increasingly clear that the process of divergent developments of the GDR and the FRG was irreversible. Based on this analysis, Willi Stoph, who had become Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers after the death of Otto Grotewohl in 1964, proposed to the FRG government in 1967 to conclude a treaty on the establishment



of normal relations between the two states on the basis of international law. However, any understanding was impeded by the FRG government's insistent sole representation claim and the concomitant diplomatic blockade against the GDR.

Breaking the diplomatic blockade. During the 1960s the GDR intensified relations with a number of Asian, African and Latin American countries. In particular, trade relations developed successfully. Agreements were concluded with several countries on the exchange of consulates general. A worldwide movement for the recognition of the GDR, supported in many countries by friendship societies with the GDR, essentially helped to break the diplomatic blockade. In 1969-70, the GDR established diplomatic relations with 14 countries.

Building the advanced socialist society

In 1971, the SED Central Committee elected Erich Honecker First Secretary (since 1976 General Secretary). The People's Chamber elected him Chairman of the Council of State in 1976.

The 8th SED Congress, which was held in June 1971, decided upon the political strategy to build the advanced socialist society. The task was to constantly improve the material and cultural living standards of the people on the basis of stable and continuous economic growth. The SED adopted a five-point peace programme to manifest the GDR's will to contribute towards safeguarding peace and bringing about a turn to détente in Europe.

Economic growth. When in the early 1970s the state had bought up the remaining privately owned industrial enterprises and those in mixed private and public ownership, socialist production relations prevailed in the whole of the GDR's industry. Economic growth was mainly achieved through intensified production and better utilization of scientific and technological achievements. In the late 1970s a start was made to build a microelectronics industry and to introduce robotics. The consolidation of existing and the formation of new industrial combines had the greatest impact of all

on the perfection of economic management and planning. Successes were also apparent in agriculture where highly efficient cooperative and state farms developed, specializing in either crop or livestock production. New model statutes for cooperative farms, which were endorsed by the Council of Ministers in 1977, stimulated intensification of agricultural production on a cooperative basis.

Social policies. Economic achievements made it possible to implement the most comprehensive social welfare programme in the history of the GDR. Between 1970 and 1980 more dwellings were built than in the previous twenty years put together. State allocations to improve material and cultural living standards more than doubled. Earned incomes and pensions increased. Particular efforts were made to assist large families and working mothers.

Legal system. The socialist legal system was improved by the adoption of the Youth Act in 1974, the new Civil Code which in 1975 replaced the last law still originating from capitalist times, the Labour Code in 1977 and the National Defence Act in 1978. Together with the Family Code of 1965, all major fields of social life in the GDR were now regulated by new and comprehensive laws.

Socialist economic integration. On the basis of the CMEA complex programme of 1971 the GDR worked to deepen socialist economic integration. On 7 October 1975 the GDR concluded a new treaty of friendship and mutual assistance with the Soviet Union, to be followed by similar treaties with other socialist countries.

Within the framework of the Intercosmos programme of the CMEA countries the first joint USSR-GDR manned space mission was carried out in August and September 1978. Siegmund Jähn, son of a worker's family and a Communist, was the first German in outer space.

Worldwide diplomatic recognition. A turn towards détente, notably in Europe, was brought about in the early 1970s by the treaties which the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Poland concluded with the FRG, as well as by the Quadripartite Agreement on West



10th World Festival of Youth and Students in Berlin, 1973.

Berlin and the Treaty on the Bases of Relations between the GDR and the FRG. These positive changes were directly connected with the worldwide diplomatic recognition of the GDR. In 1973, the GDR was admitted to the United Nations, and by the end of 1974 diplomatic relations were established with more than 100 countries. The GDR participated actively in the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Desirous to implementing the provisions of that conference's Final Act of 1975 the GDR concluded numerous treaties and agreements with capitalist CSCE countries covering nearly every field of activity including measures to safeguard peace, economic relations, science and technology, culture and sports.

Continuity in implementing the central policy

The GDR has continued to develop as a politically stable and economically efficient socialist state since the early 1980s. In the five-year plan period from 1981 to 1985 successful efforts were made to raise national income, labour productivity and production output with decreasing inputs of energy, raw materials and feedstocks. On this basis it was able to enter into the phase of full-scale intensive development of the economy to save working time, labour and resources.

Intensification of agricultural production had an equally good record. Almost every year saw new records in grain production and yields per hectare achieved on a more favourable input-output ratio. The target figures for livestock production were surpassed.

The GDR supported the measures adopted by the CMEA to increase multilateral integration and intensification of production. Long-term programmes on cooperation in the fields of science, technology and manufacturing until the year 2000 were concluded with the USSR and other CMEA members.

The considerably strengthened economic potential was used for measures to maintain and further raise material and cultural

standards. The SED decided at its 11th Congress in April 1986 to continue the proven policy of translating economic progress into social benefit and adopted a number of important social welfare measures.

Efforts were continued to advance socialist democracy. An important measure in this connection was the adoption of the Local Government Act in 1985 under which the local elected assemblies and local councils are assigned a larger role in the life of society.

The GDR preserves and cultivates everything progressive inherited from the past. This is documented by the events and publications on the occasion of Karl Marx Year which was commemorated in 1983, by the commemorative events to honour Martin Luther on the occasion of his 500th anniversary in the same year or the events organized to pay tribute to the composers Bach, Schütz and Handel in 1985.

Analysing the present dangerous exacerbation of the international situation the 11th Congress of the SED emphasized that the GDR regards it as its most important task to help save mankind from a nuclear inferno and bring about a turn towards disarmament.

The GDR supports the proposals of the USSR and the other Warsaw Treaty member countries for détente and disarmament. The comprehensive disarmament programme submitted by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is seen as ushering in a new stage in the peace making process, offering all nations the chance of a peaceful future. In shaping its relations with the FRG the GDR is guided by the notion that the two German states bear a particular responsibility for peace, which is rooted in the experiences of the past and their position at the dividing line between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO.

In the future the GDR will continue its endeavours to develop its own initiatives in order to help build a worldwide coalition of common sense and realism to prevent a nuclear conflagration. It remains an unshakeable principle of the GDR to do everything possible to prevent a new war emanating from German soil.





May 1945. Red Army has defeated the Nazis in Berlin. Soviet soldiers at the Brandenburg Gate. The liberators give bread to the starving Germans. (previous page)

Removing the ruins, the first step to postwar regeneration. (above)

A new teacher with his class. By summer 1946, 40,000 teachers had been trained to work in the new democratic schools. (above right)

The land of the Junkers and large estate owners is given to poor farmers and farm labourers. (below right)



In April 1946, the two workers' parties, the KPD and SPD, merged to form the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

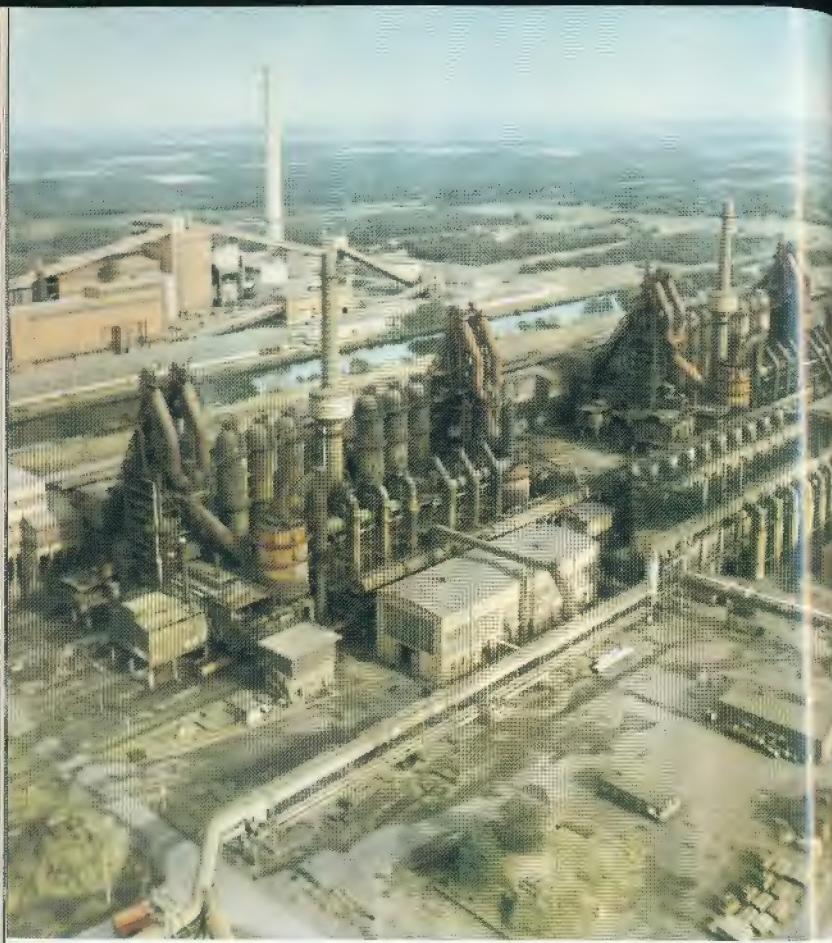
Historic handshake between party leaders Wilhelm Pieck of the KPD and Otto Grotewohl of the SPD. (above)

Writers Thomas Mann (centre of photo) and Johannes R. Becher seen at the 1949 tribute to Goethe in Weimar. (right)

German premiere of Bertolt Brecht's **Mother Courage** in Berlin's Deutsches Theater. (far right)

GDR established on 7 October 1949. Wilhelm Pieck is elected President. (below)



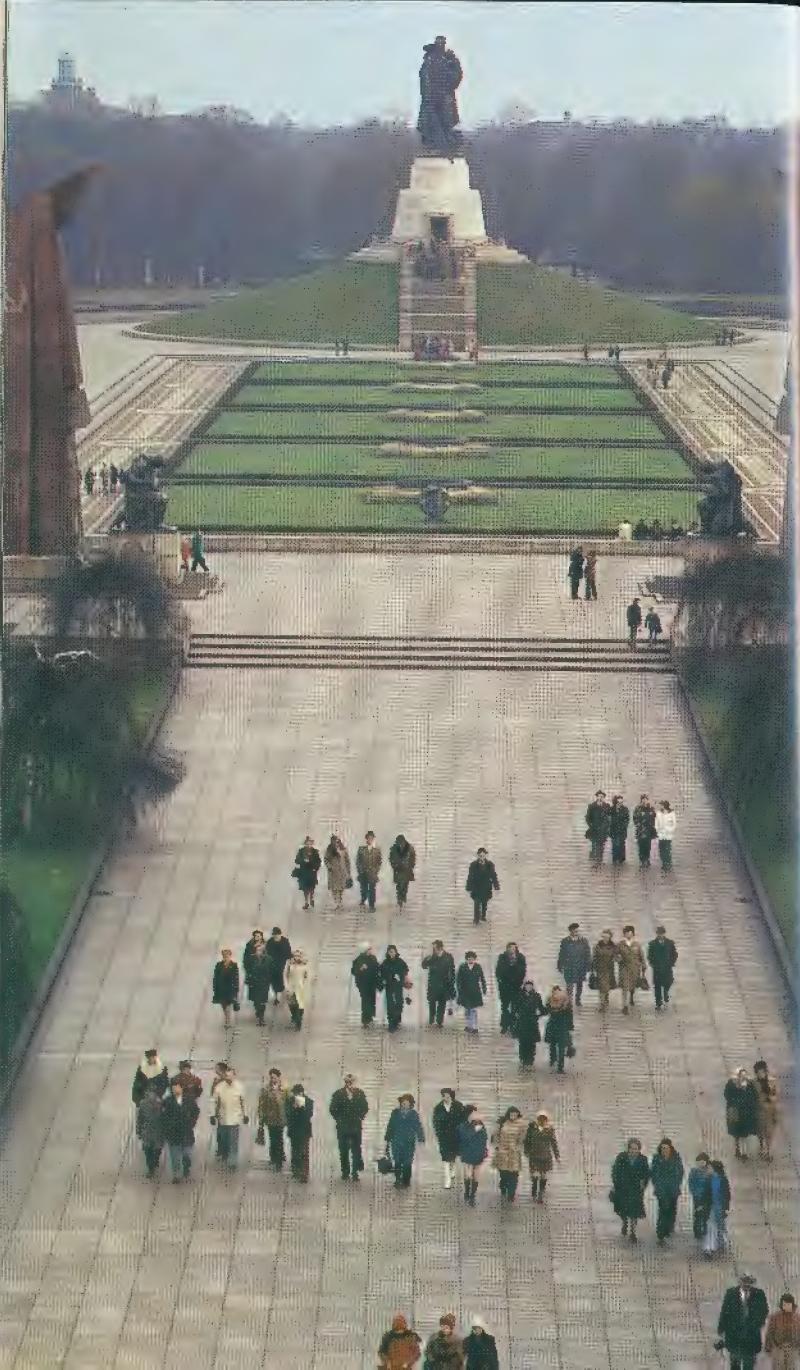


The Eisenhüttenkombinat Ost, an iron and steelworks built in the 1950s, has seen ongoing modernization and expansion. (above)
Erich Honecker seen here in Helsinki in 1975 signing the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. (above right)

3 September 1978. Siegmund Jähn, the GDR's first man in space, with Soviet commander Valery Bykovsky after their return to Earth. (below right)

The monument in Treptower Park is dedicated to the memory of the 20,000 Soviet soldiers who lost their lives in the liberation of Berlin. (overleaf)





The state and its citizens

The GDR is a democratic state. Its Constitution, elected assemblies and authoritative bodies represent the unity of all political and social forces of the people gathered under the leadership of the working class and its party, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED). The alliance of all classes and strata and the socialist ownership of the means of production are fundamentals of socialist society.

The proven cooperation between the SED and the other political parties and mass organizations is marked by strict respect for the complete political and organizational independence of all elements of the political system in the GDR.

Comprehensive political, economic, social and cultural rights guaranteed by the law make sure that all citizens have the chance to play an active part in the preparation, implementation and control of government decisions.

Basic rights and duties

The Constitution of the GDR guarantees all citizens the basic right to live in peace and to participate in formulating the country's political and economic strategies and shaping its social and cultural life.

The right to participation in public affairs is solidly ensured. All government authorities are elected in a democratic process. The

public takes an active part in their work, and the people are involved in the management of society, in planning and developing social life.

Every citizen has the same rights and duties, irrespective of nationality, race, philosophy, religious confession, social background and position in society. Upon completion of their 18th year of life every citizen of the GDR has the right to vote and is eligible to all people's assemblies.

The right to work is guaranteed under the Constitution and the Labour Code and practised in everyday life. Socialist ownership of the means of production and state planning and management are the reasons why full employment and job security are ensured in the GDR. All citizens can rest assured in the knowledge that they will receive sound training followed by a job. The right to equal pay for equal work applies to both men and women, adults and youths.

The right to education ensures that a high level of education is imparted to all young people regardless of the social status of their parents, and that everybody has access to the highest education institutions. The integrated socialist education system offers everyone equal opportunities. All young people have the right and the duty to learn a trade or profession.

The right to freedom of expression is guaranteed. Every citizen can, in compliance with the principles of the constitution, freely and publicly express their opinion without prejudice to their person or status. The freedom of the press, radio and television is firmly protected. The law forbids any manifestation of militarist and revanchist propaganda. Expressions of hatred of any particular faith, race or nation will be regarded as criminal acts and punished accordingly.

The right to freedom of conscience and belief means that every citizen is able to profess their religious faith and to worship. The churches and other religious communities function in compliance with the relevant legal stipulations.

Equal rights for women are assured in all spheres of life. State

authorities are obliged to treat women as citizens with equal rights and to promote women in society. Socialist society has created all the necessary political and economic conditions for implementing this basic human right. There is not one single democratic institution in the GDR where women are not duly represented and do a highly appreciated work. Economic independence of women is guaranteed by the right to work.

Young people's rights, in particular the right to work and leisure, to equal political involvement, to education, to joy and happiness as well as the realization of these rights offer the young every opportunity to help advance the socialist development of the GDR. Responsibility and confidence is placed in young people in all areas of development.

The legal system

The legal system in the GDR serves to implement the interests of the working people, uphold legality and protect the freedom and dignity of the citizens. It ensures that laws and regulations are strictly adhered to. Legal security is an essential feature of the socialist state. It guarantees equality before the law. Legality is guaranteed by including the citizens in the administration of the law and in the mechanism to monitor adherence to the law.

The administration of justice is ensured through the Supreme Court, the county and district courts and the lay courts. The People's Chamber of the GDR lays down the guidelines for the work of the Supreme Court and the Prosecutor General.

Lay courts are an integral part of the socialist legal system. As a form of democratic involvement in the administration of justice they operate as grievance commissions at enterprise level and as arbitration commissions in residential areas in the towns, communities and in the production cooperatives, dealing with cases of industrial law, minor civil matters and other petty legal disputes.

The Department of Public Prosecutions is entrusted with the task to protect the public against criminal offenders. It is headed

by the Prosecutor General and sees to the strict observance of law.

The German People's Police is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. The police have the responsibility of maintaining public order and security as well as guaranteeing a peaceful life for each and everyone. Their most important task is to prevent and ward off threats to life and limb. They lead the fight against crime and other breaches of the law. In their work they can rely on the support of many voluntary helpers who, above all, work in road safety committees and voluntary fire brigades.

Political parties and mass organizations

In the GDR there is no social class or stratum which lives from the exploitation of another. Instead, everyone has the same interest in seeing that state and society develop for the good of all citizens and that everyone, according to performance, can enjoy the fruits of society's successes. Through their specific capabilities, traditions and attitudes all classes and strata make their contribution to society.

In the same way as the GDR is the result of the combined efforts of the leading working class, the cooperative farmers, the intelligentsia and other working people, the political system is characterized by trusting and comradely cooperation between the parties and mass organizations.

The following parties and mass organizations have their own representatives in the people's assemblies at all levels:

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED)



As the party of the working class the SED is the leading party in the GDR. In Marxism-Leninism it has at its disposal a theory of society and its development which is scientifically based and has shown its practical worth. It translates into reality the tasks and goals which Marx, Engels and Lenin identified as the mission of the working class in building a socialist society in the interests of all working people. The SED, which was founded in the spring of 1946 and was the result of the merger of the two German workers' parties – the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) – is continuing to uphold all the revolutionary traditions of the German workers' movement. It unites in its ranks more than two million of the most progressive members from the working class, cooperative farmers, the intelligentsia and other working people. The highest party organ is the Party Congress which takes place every five years. There the general direction and the principles of the policy of the SED are decided on and the Central Committee is elected which will lead the party between congresses.

The Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany (DBD)



The DBD was founded on 29 April 1948 as a democratic party for working farmers. Its main concern is that each of its members should make their own contribution to strengthening socialism and peace. The DBD makes an important contribution to strengthening the alliance between the working class and the cooperative farmers, to introducing new scientific and technological findings in agriculture, increasing the efficiency of agricultural production and promoting socialist development in the villages. The DBD has approximately 110,000 members.

The Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU)



The CDU unites people who, motivated by Christian faith and traditions, are committed to peace, human dignity and social justice and actively build socialism. It acts to get social concerns of people of Christian faith considered in government policy and promotes cooperation between Christians and Marxists on a basis of equal rights and duties. The CDU was founded on 26 June 1945 and has approximately 132,000 members.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD)



The LDPD is predominantly a party of craftsmen, retailers and intellectuals. Its political motivations are rooted in the struggles of progressive bourgeois democrats who fought in the interest of the people against militarism and fascism. Under the party's statutes, the members are called upon to take an active part in implementing the GDR's peace policy and continuing its course of translating economic progress into social benefit. The LDPD was founded on 5 July 1945 and has approximately 96,000 members.

The National Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD)



The NDPD is mainly composed of members of the former middle classes. It greatly helped to overcome nationalistic thinking. Its members are private and cooperative craftsmen, tradespeople, intellectuals and cultural workers.

The main thrust of the party's political work is to strengthen socialist state consciousness. The NDPD bears a great deal of responsibility for the political and moral as well as the socio-economic development of these sectors of the population it represents. The party

was founded on 25 May 1948 and has more than 100,000 members.

The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB)



The FDGB is the unified, free and independent trade union organization and is the largest mass and class organization of the workers, embracing 16 industrial and other unions with a total membership of more than 9 million. This is over 97 per cent of all working people, excluding the members of cooperatives.

At the national and local level the trade unions play an equal and constructive role in the management of the state and the economy. All laws which concern the working and living conditions of the working people must be discussed with the FDGB and require union consent. The unions have an important say in the planning of the economy ranging from the discussion of the yearly plans for each enterprise to the adoption of the national economic plan.

The FDGB was founded on 15 June 1945. Since 1 January 1949 it has been a member of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The Free German Youth (FDJ)



The FDJ has approximately 2.3 million members. On a voluntary basis more than three quarters of all young people aged between 14 and 25 have decided to join this organization. The FDJ is the uniform and independent political youth organization in the GDR. The junior wing of the FDJ is the Ernst Thälmann Pioneer Organization for boys and girls of 6 to 14 years of age.

The FDJ has particularly close relations to the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and is the party's active helper and reserve force amongst the young.

The FDJ was founded on 7 March 1946. Since 1948 it has been a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and since 1950 a member of the International Union of Students.

The Women's Democratic Federation of Germany (DFD)



The DFD is the unified, democratic mass movement for women. It has set itself the task of winning over women from all groups of the population to the idea of active involvement in society and is particularly active in residential areas and at grassroot level. It offers women a wide range of educational opportunities and social involvement and helps to make the equal rights of women in society, as guaranteed in the constitution, a reality.

The DFD was founded on 8 March 1947. 1.5 million women from all sectors of society form the membership. Since 1948 the DFD has been a member of the Womens' International Democratic Federation (WIDF).

The League of Culture of the GDR (KB)



The members of this the largest cultural organization in the GDR take a keen interest, in their more than 10,000 interest groups, in all aspects of cultural life in towns and villages. They devote a great deal of attention to the work environment and the promotion of knowledge, science and technology. They encourage the upholding of, and the familiarization with, the cultural heritage, the spreading of art and literature and varied cultural and creative activities of the citizens.

The League of Culture was founded on 3 July 1945 and has more than 265,000 members, with more than 20 per cent of its members being under 30 years of age.

The Mutual Farmers' Aid Association (VdgB)



The VdgB is a mass organization made up of cooperative farmers and gardeners. Its 570,000 members help boost agricultural production through institutions aimed at reducing the strain of work and increasing productivity.

The VdgB helps cooperative farms and small-scale producers through its facilities, hire centres and DIY-workshops.

The National Front

The National Front was born in 1949, the foundation year of the GDR, giving the new state a wide foundation in all classes and strata and among all democratic and patriotic forces in the country. Nowadays it is the GDR's socialist popular movement which unites the political parties, mass organizations and individual citizens. The National Front organizes and supervises all public elections in the GDR. It has taken it upon itself to make people aware of their civic responsibility, to cooperate closely with the people's assemblies, the enterprises and other institutions and to develop a rich intellectual and cultural life in the towns and communities. It encourages socialist civic consciousness and citizens' initiatives.

Hundreds of thousands of people are taking part, for example, in community improvement campaigns offering their help to implement the country's housing programme. They participate in laying out children's playgrounds, building indoor swimming pools and sprucing residential areas. In the neighbourhoods they assist elderly people and maintain parks and green spaces, sports grounds and cultural establishments.

The Democratic Bloc is the core of the National Front and an umbrella organization uniting all political parties as well as the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, the Free German Youth, the Women's Democratic Federation of Germany, the League of Culture and the Mutual Farmers' Aid Association. It is a forum to

discuss all fundamental issues of the GDR's domestic and foreign policies, ensuring united action of the members of all political parties and mass organizations. All decisions must be taken by consensus and the office of chairman rotates on a regular basis.

The people's assemblies

The elected people's assemblies are the basis of the system of state authorities. They constitute all government departments. All people's assemblies are elected for a period of five years in free, general, equal elections by secret ballot.

The elected representatives are accountable to the electorate. They must report on their activities and include the electors in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of governmental decisions. Work methods include regular political surgeries in enterprises and their constituency. An elected representative who grossly neglects his duties can, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the law, be recalled by the electorate.

The elected representatives in the German Democratic Republic are not full-time politicians but continue with their respective occupations. If necessary for the exercise of their duties as an elected representative, they are exempted from work and continue to receive a full pay.

Every people's assembly establishes its committees or commissions. Besides the elected members, these bodies include also citizens with specialist knowledge in certain spheres. The committees and commissions are entrusted with the task to prepare drafts and resolutions, to consult and to monitor the implementation of resolutions adopted.

The People's Chamber is the GDR's supreme representative body. It is the sole constitutional and legislative authority of the country and nobody may curtail its rights. The members of the People's Chamber enjoy personal immunity. The work of the People's Chamber is guided by a presidium whose President is Horst

Sindermann, a member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee.

The People's Chamber takes fundamental decisions concerning the structure and activities of the central government bodies. It elects the chairmen and members of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, the Chairman of the National Defence Council, the President and the judges of the Supreme Court as well as the Prosecutor General.

The People's Chamber defines the guidelines of the country's foreign policy. It approves or terminates international treaties and is authorized to decide on a state of defence. It can decide to hold plebiscites.

The members of the People's Chamber for the 1986-90 legislative period were elected on 8 June 1986 by 12,392,094 citizens which means that they received 99.94 per cent of the votes cast. Turnout at the election was 99.74 per cent of the electorate.

The Council of State is a body elected by, and responsible to, the People's Chamber. The Chairman of the Council of State is Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the SED. The Council of State represents the GDR under international law. It is vested with the right to ratify or denounce international treaties. It takes fundamental decisions on matters relating to the defence and security of the country. The Council of State issues the writ for elections to the People's Chamber and the local assemblies and ensures that these elections are prepared and held in a democratic manner. It also exercises the right of amnesty and pardon.

The Council of Ministers is the government of the GDR. An organ of the People's Chamber, it is responsible for translating the state's political strategy into practical measures in the fields of foreign policy, economy, welfare, culture and defence. It is vested with the task of organizing the integrated management of economic processes which are of decisive importance for the country's economy as a whole.

The Council of Ministers stipulates the principles underlying

the work of the individual ministries and other departments of central government, defines their competences and monitors the discharge of their duties. It coordinates the activities of ministries and other state authorities at the national level and their cooperation with local councils.

The ministers are required to explain the laws and resolutions of the Council of Ministers to all local assemblies and their councils as well as the citizens and to discuss with them the tasks to be solved. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers is Willi Stoph, a member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee.

The local councils are bodies elected by the local assemblies in the counties, districts, towns, boroughs and communities. They are accountable to the respective assemblies and carry out, on their authorization, the political, economic, social and cultural tasks which come under their jurisdiction.

The election of deputies to people's assemblies

The National Front is the political force organizing and supervising the election process. It has been established practice since the GDR was founded for the political parties and mass organizations to put their candidates nominated for the elections to assemblies at all levels onto one common list of candidates to be presented to the electorate by the National Front. Electoral law requires all candidates proposed for election to an assembly to be monitored first of all by their work teams. If prospective candidates fail to get through this preliminary examination their party or organization may not enter them on the list of the National Front. In this way, the working people have a decisive role to play in determining who shall represent their interests in the elected assemblies. After acceptance by their work teams candidates are required to present themselves to the voters in their constituency and answer any questions they may have. In preparation for elections lists of candidates are drawn up to ensure that all people entitled to vote can exercise their right to vote. The constituency represented by an

assembly which is to be elected is divided into wards. For every ward an election committee is formed which ensures that voting at the polling station runs smoothly and properly. In all elections the number of nominated candidates exceeds the number of mandates available. On the day of the election every voter has the opportunity to cross out on the joint list of the National Front those candidates in whom he has no confidence. Voters are entitled to go to the polling booth and vote in secret. After the election the votes are counted in public at the polling station. Candidates who receive more than half of the valid votes cast are elected.

The run-up to the election is always used for a broad discussion on the results of the previous legislative period and on future tasks. It is an opportunity for the citizens to familiarize themselves just as thoroughly with developments on the national scale as with projects concerning their town, village or neighbourhood. Here also they have the opportunity to bring their influence to bear on state planning and decision-making through their suggestions, comments and, if necessary, critical remarks.

Churches and other religious communities

For historical reasons that are due to the work of Luther and the Reformation, the Protestant creed is well and truly dominant in the GDR. About 4,300 pastors do their service in eight Evangelical provincial churches which merged to form the Federation of Evangelical Churches of the GDR in 1969.

The Catholic Church in the GDR breaks down into two Dioceses, three Episcopal Districts and one Apostolic Administration and is headed by the Berlin Bishops Conference, the union of Catholic bishops in the GDR. There are 988 pastoral communities and 1,144 clergy. Moreover there are, mainly in regions with a high percentage of Catholics, men's and women's orders, monasteries, convents and other monastic facilities.

Apart from these, there are 40 other religious communities in the GDR, most of which are affiliated to worldwide organizations.

There are eight Jewish communities for citizens following this creed, which are organized in the Union of Jewish Communities in the GDR. To practise their religion they may avail themselves of eight synagogues and houses of prayer which, having been destroyed during the time of fascism, were rebuilt from government funds and consecrated. The same can be said of the 125 Jewish cemeteries, one of the largest of its kind in Europe being the Jewish cemetery in Berlin-Weissensee.

The churches and other religious communities manage and practise their activities in line with the Constitution and other legal stipulations in force in the GDR. Guided by the principle that the state and the church should be separate, the socialist state in its relationship towards the churches is striving for a matter-of-fact atmosphere marked by mutual understanding and complying with the Constitution. Tribute is paid to the commitment shown by the churches to the cause of safeguarding peace and ensuring all people's well-being.

For the care, promotion and rehabilitation of the mentally and physically handicapped as well as for elderly people, the churches run a large number of charitable and welfare facilities. The state assists them by financial allocations and personnel training.

Destroyed during the Second World War, many churches and chapels in the GDR were restored and rebuilt with government assistance. A great number of Protestant and Catholic churches and community centres are set up in new residential areas as part of a special construction scheme.

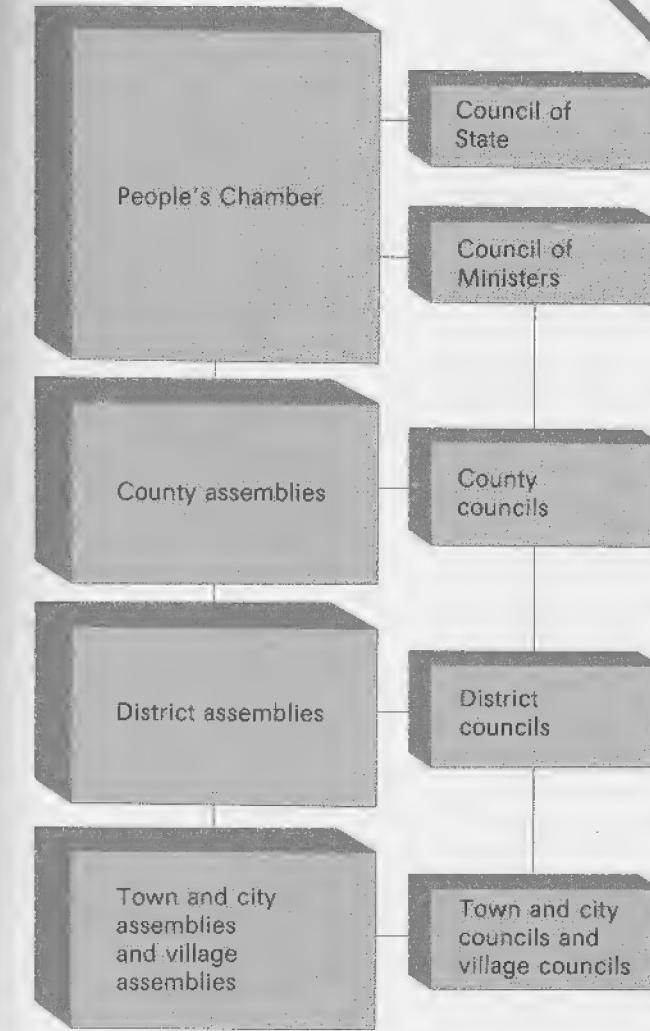
Church music, Christian literature and art as well as church publications have assumed a substantial scale in the GDR. The Evangelische Verlagsanstalt and the St. Benno-Verlag are publishing houses run by the churches with the largest congregations.

Churches in the GDR are actively involved in alleviating hunger and poverty and helping the victims of natural disasters in the framework of campaigns called Bread for the World and Distress in the World and support the anti-racism programme of the World Council of Churches.

The state and its citizens



**Structure of government
(simplified version)**



Millions of GDR citizens are involved in decision-making:

206,000	elected representatives
186,000	citizens cooperate on the standing committees of local people's assemblies
388,000	people sit on National Front committees
359,000	are involved in the administration of justice
610,000	citizens sit on parents' groups and parent-teacher associations at school
300,000	people are members of shop councils

**Members of the People's Chamber according to social background
(Learned trade or first occupation)**

Workers	271
Cooperative farmers	31
Office workers	69
Members of the intelligentsia	126
Others	3

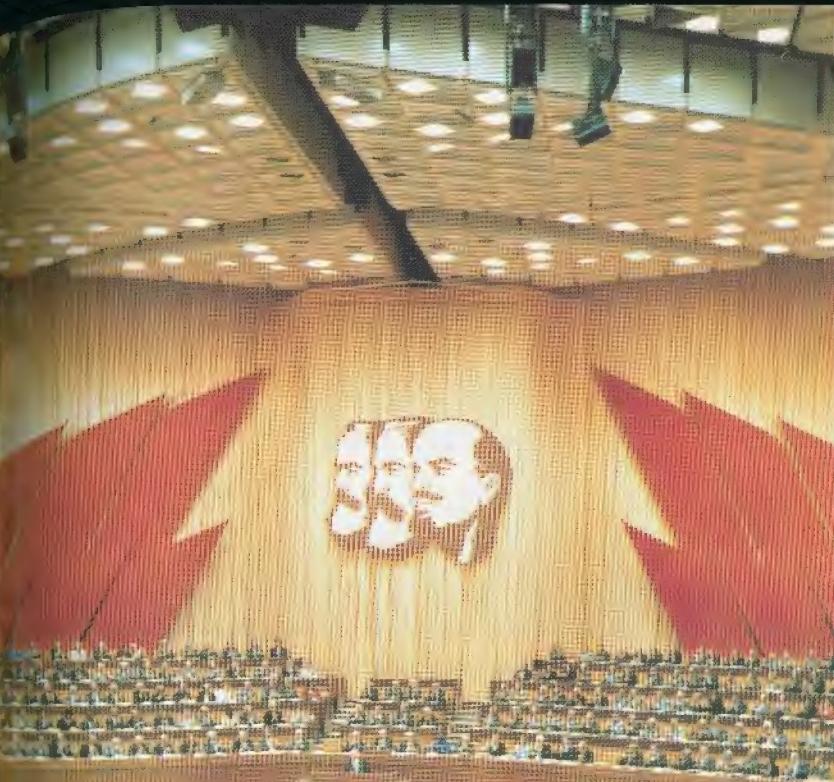
**Proportion of young deputies (between 18 and 25 years)
and of female deputies**

	Young deputies per cent	Female deputies per cent
People's Chamber	9	32
County assemblies	17	39
District assemblies	22	43
Village assemblies	15	37
Borough assemblies	23	41

Elected trade union representatives

At group level	1,445,000
Shop stewards	336,000
Cultural organizers	324,000
Sports organizers	275,000
Social insurance representatives	322,000
Safety representatives	307,000
Members of sub-branch committees (AGL)	174,000
Members of trade union branch committees at enterprise, firm and school level	353,000
Members of women's commissions	79,000
Members of retired persons sub-branch committees	30,000
Members of auditing commissions	129,000





The 11th SED Congress in April 1986 set out the main lines for the GDR's development and discussed the work ahead to strengthen socialism in the GDR. It had been preceded by an extensive public debate.

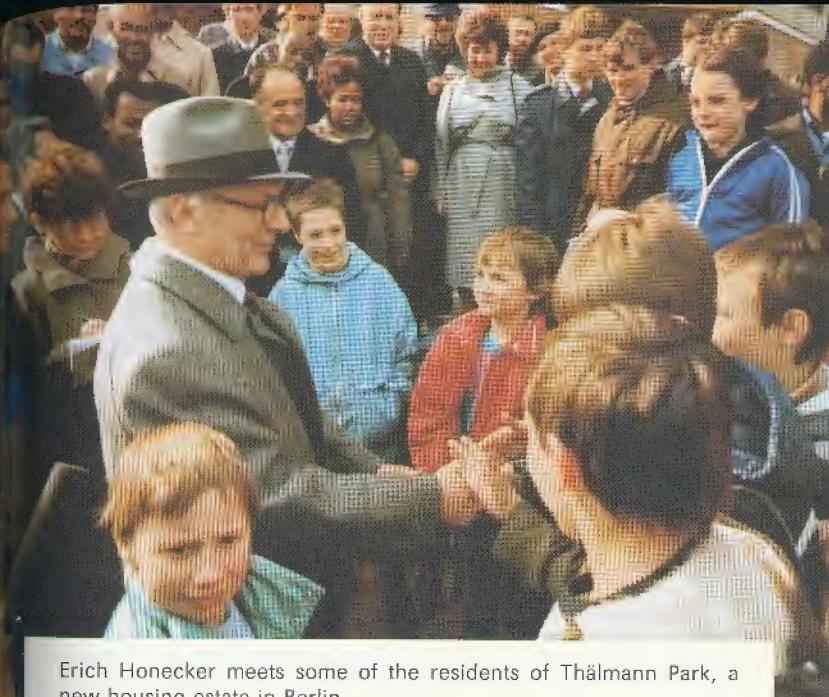
Erich Honecker was re-elected General Secretary.





The Whit rallies of the Free German Youth organization can look back on a long tradition.

Harry Tisch, Chairman of the FDGB National Executive, is seen here talking to workers at the crane factory in Eberswalde.



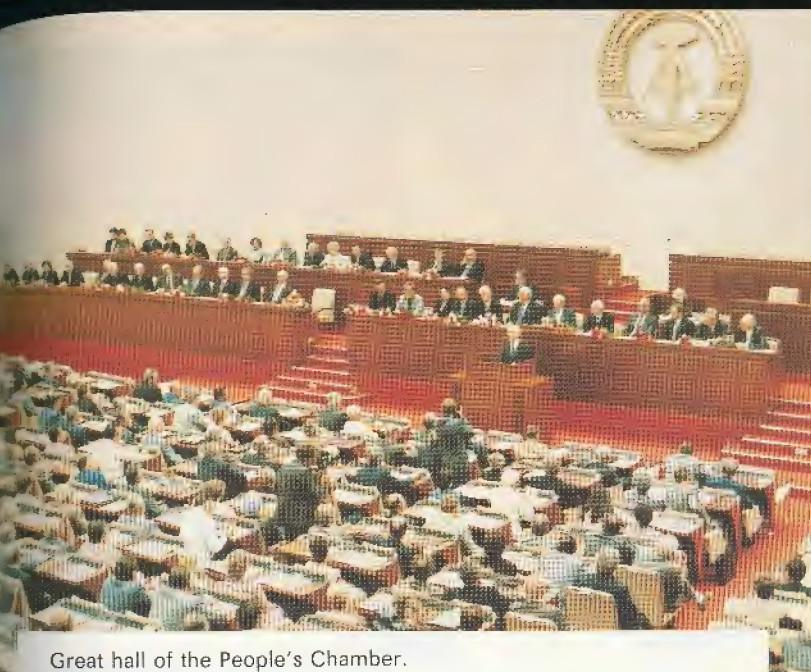
Erich Honecker meets some of the residents of Thälmann Park, a new housing estate in Berlin.

Consultations between the parties and mass organizations represented in the People's Chamber.





The State Council building on Marx Engels Platz in Berlin.



Great hall of the People's Chamber.

Village representative Karla Haupt from the Oppitzsch cooperative farm, Dresden county, seen talking to her voters.



Discussing the plan at the petrochemical combine in Schwedt.



National flag
of the German
Democratic
Republic.



Karl Marx Order
This highest of all awards is bestowed on individuals, places of work and mass organizations in recognition of outstanding efforts in developing the socialist system of society in the GDR and in promoting international friendship.



Star of International Friendship
This award is presented to individuals and mass organizations who have been particularly outstanding in fostering international friendship and cooperation, preserving peace or raising the international prestige enjoyed by the GDR.



National Prize
The GDR National Prize is bestowed on groups of persons and individuals for outstanding achievements in science and technology, the arts and literature. The National Prizes are awarded annually on 7 October, the GDR's national holiday.

Foreign policy

In its foreign policy the German Democratic Republic seeks to help preserve peace in Europe and the world at large and, through effective measures of arms limitation and disarmament, prevent a nuclear war. In this way foreign policy contributes towards creating external conditions which are most favourable for the further shaping of the country's advanced socialist society.

The GDR is working consistently to strengthen the fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. It maintains relations marked by anti-imperialist solidarity with all nations and countries struggling for national independence and social progress and does its utmost to facilitate mutual understanding and confidence in its relations with the capitalist states on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

This peaceful foreign policy has the support of the entire population. In the GDR, no class or social group has an interest in war nor can gain any profit from armament. The unity between the people's interests and governmental policies guarantees that the GDR will never pursue a policy of war, aggression, subjugation and plundering of other countries and peoples. It is the greatest desire of the people and the supreme goal of the state to safeguard peace.

For international peace

The GDR's domestic and foreign policies are based on the notion that the maintenance and safeguarding of peace have become the crucial issue of the human race. Closely linked with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community the GDR makes every effort to avert the danger of a nuclear inferno and promote international security by measures to halt and reverse the arms race.

With this in mind, the GDR supports the comprehensive Soviet proposals of 15 January 1986 to free mankind from nuclear means of mass destruction by the beginning of the third millennium.

The allied countries favour an integrated approach to the disarmament issue. In their view, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction should be complemented by substantial reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments. Guided by this desire, the Warsaw Treaty member states addressed an appeal to all other European countries, the United States and Canada containing proposals which, if they were implemented, would markedly reduce the danger of war in Europe. The appeal calling for cuts in the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, which the Warsaw Treaty member states directed in June 1986 to the member states of NATO and, indeed, all European nations is seen by the GDR public as a historic move to meet the greatest concern of all nations, to live up to their most cherished hopes and aspirations.

The GDR believes that it is necessary for all political and social forces who are truly striving for peace to act together without regard to ideology, social origin, race or creed. As in the past, the GDR will continue in its varied efforts to build a coalition of common sense and realism in order to thwart the lunatic policies of preparing a nuclear war and forging ahead with armament.

The GDR advocates the cessation of the arms race on earth and the prevention of its escalation into outer space. This could be achieved by measures such as

- the cessation of all nuclear tests;
- the comprehensive prohibition of offensive space weapons and the discontinuation of all activities to develop, test and deploy such systems as well as the renunciation of the so-called strategic defence initiative;
- a 50 per cent reduction in all Soviet and US nuclear weapons capable of reaching the territory of the other side;
- a freeze on existing nuclear arsenals at their present quantitative levels with strictest possible restrictions on their qualitative improvement;
- the elimination of all intermediate-range missiles in Europe;
- the establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones and chemical-weapon free zones;
- the creation of a zone free from battlefield nuclear weapons in Central Europe.

The GDR is working consistently for the conclusion of an agreement on the complete prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons, including the particularly dangerous category of binary weapons, and for the non-proliferation of chemical weapons.

Since 1973 the GDR has been a direct participant in the ongoing talks in Vienna on a mutual reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Central Europe. At the Stockholm conference it actively contributes towards efforts to come to an agreement on confidence and security building measures, both in the political and military fields, in Europe. In this connection, the GDR places great importance on steps to strengthen and expand the principle of the non-use of force in international relations. The GDR makes its own active contribution to disarmament through its initiatives to halt and reverse the arms race and its direct participation in relevant international negotiating bodies.

The USSR, the GDR and the other countries of the socialist community have worked out a comprehensive and generally acceptable programme to continue their peace initiative. They are prepared, on the basis of international agreements and in compliance with the principle of equality and equal security, to limit, reduce,

withdraw from their arsenals and finally eliminate all types of weapons. It is this peace concept that determines the GDR's foreign policy stance.

It is also the common concern of all five political parties in the GDR, all mass organizations, various religious communities and virtually all citizens. By its nature, the peace movement in the GDR is a democratic popular movement. It embraces all social classes and sectors of society, people of every age with different philosophies and religious beliefs.

Firm alliance with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries

As a signatory state of the Warsaw Treaty, a member of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and a party to numerous bilateral treaties on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance the GDR is firmly incorporated in the community of socialist states. This strengthens its international position and is a precondition for the further successful shaping of its advanced socialist society and its protection.

The GDR's close and fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries is rooted in the concurrence of their interests in resolving national and international issues.

For many years the GDR has made it one of its top priorities to strengthen and develop its ties with the Soviet Union. The main pillar of the two countries' relationship is their Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 7 October 1975.

In the view of the GDR the resolutions adopted at the 27th CPSU Congress gave important fresh impetus to the struggle for peace, the advancement of socialism and the growing unity and coherence of the community of socialist countries.

Bilateral treaties on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance were also concluded with the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Socialist Republic of

Romania. In addition, the GDR signed treaties on friendship and cooperation with the Mongolian People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Cuba, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Relations with other socialist countries are likewise developing on the basis of long-term agreements. New efforts have been made to intensify relations between the GDR and China. In various talks leading political figures of the two countries underlined the shared belief that the most urgent task of the present day is to safeguard peace and prevent a nuclear inferno.

The GDR's intensive relations with all socialist countries at party and governmental level in the fields of politics, economics, defence, science, technology, culture and sport promote the permanent growth of the intellectual and material potential of the socialist countries, accelerate their pace of development and bring nations and people closer together.

For an active policy of peaceful coexistence

The GDR, together with all other socialist countries, pursues a policy of peaceful coexistence. It is their essential contribution to the struggle for peace and security, and against the danger of a nuclear world war. It is the only way of eliminating the immensely heightened danger of a nuclear inferno and safeguarding peace on a lasting basis. The strategy of superarmament and confrontation puts at risk all that has been achieved through the devoted efforts of nations and peoples. There can, therefore, be no reasonable alternative to the policy of peaceful coexistence.

The GDR, together with the other socialist countries, continues to work with determination for the implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence between states of differing social systems. Desirous to help improve the international climate and build a coalition of common sense and realism the GDR seeks to enter

into dialogue with all those who are involved in the political decision-making process and bear political responsibility. In this way the GDR contributes to better mutual understanding, predictability and extensive cooperation in all fields. Political dialogue, conducted in various forms and at various levels, is a feature of the GDR's foreign policy.

In this connection great importance attaches to the process ushered in by the Helsinki Conference on security and cooperation. The GDR greatly helped prepare the Helsinki Final Act which stipulates the fundamental principles and recommendations which must serve as the pillars of security and cooperation in Europe. The GDR's attitude to the Helsinki Final Act, to the CSCE process in general, has at all times been governed by its overriding interest to preserve and safeguard peace. The GDR persistently favours strict adherence to the letter and the spirit of the Final Act as well as fresh efforts to revitalize détente. This attitude is in full accordance with the desire of its people for peace.

The treaties concluded between the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany, the Treaty on the Bases of Relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany and the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin signed in 1971 by the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France provided the basis for developing peaceful relations and mutually advantageous cooperation between states with different social systems. The GDR advocates adherence to the treaties concluded and opposes all attempts at discrediting, or undermining these treaties, testing them to breaking point or returning to a strategy of blackmail against the socialist countries. It shares, with its allies, a firm resolve to continue their efforts to advance, in a consistent and balanced manner, that multilateral process which began at the Helsinki conference.

The GDR is prepared to further expand its political relations with capitalist countries, having an interest in developing cooperation in the economic, scientific and technological fields on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. This policy is reflected in the multi-

tude of government agreements and contracts with West European countries, corporations and firms. The GDR resolutely opposes attempts directed at straining international economic relations by imposing embargoes, boycotts or other impeding measures or using economic relations as a means for political extortion. The GDR wishes to develop cooperation in the fields of environmental protection, culture, education and health and to work for the implementation of human rights in all fields with due respect for the sovereignty of states.

In its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany the German Democratic Republic acts on the notion that the maintenance of peace remains the most important issue. In view of their historical experience and their geographical position in the very heart of Europe the two German states bear a special responsibility to promote peace, security and disarmament. Acknowledging this responsibility the GDR makes great efforts to maintain extensive political dialogue with the leading political figures in the Federal Republic. The implementation of far-reaching measures to prevent the militarization of outer space and halt the arms race on earth would open up prospects for halting a further build-up of arms on German soil thus providing more security for both German states.

The GDR wishes that only peace and not war emanates from German soil. Relations between the two German states must not be a burden on the situation in Europe. They must add impetus to efforts aimed at creating harmony and trust among states and nations in Europe.

The GDR wants to apply fully the principles of peaceful coexistence in its relations with the FRG. In the future as well it will firmly oppose any attempt at changing the European post-war order. Great political significance attaches to the fact that the GDR and the FRG jointly declared in 1985 that the inviolability of frontiers and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states in Europe within their present borders are fundamental prerequisites for peace.

The GDR, for its part, is prepared to contribute in a constructive manner to the development of normal and good-neighbourly relations with the FRG.

In its relations with West Berlin the GDR is guided by strict adherence to the Quadripartite Agreement, notably its central provision that West Berlin continues not to be a constituent part of the Federal Republic and may not be governed by it. The GDR has launched many initiatives to develop and expand relations with West Berlin. It is still prepared to discuss issues of common interest with the Senate of West Berlin and search for solutions which are beneficial to both sides.

Friendship and cooperation in solidarity with nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America

The GDR shows its solidarity with the liberated countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It supports their struggle for peace, political and economic independence and social progress, and against imperialist policies of threat, pressure and interference, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism. True to its foreign policy goals the GDR has always supported the peoples fighting for national and social liberation, and it will continue to do so in the future. The GDR acts on the notion that common efforts for international peace and disarmament help create more favourable conditions for the development of the countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

If peace is to be maintained it is more urgent than ever before to defuse sources of conflict and tension everywhere in the world by way of negotiations involving all parties concerned and taking account of their legitimate interests. The GDR continues to assist the people of Nicaragua and endorses the search for a peaceful and just solution to the conflicts in Central America. It demands that the policy of apartheid be ended in southern Africa, support of the racist regime be discontinued and national independence be granted to Namibia. In view of the volatile situation in the Middle

East the GDR emphatically calls for the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, the implementation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state of their own, and the implementation of the right of all states in the region to independent existence and development. The convening of an international Middle East peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, would be an appropriate step to bring just and stable peace to the Middle East.

The GDR commends the increased role played by the non-aligned countries in international affairs and combines efforts with them in the struggle to eliminate the danger of war, promote peace, disarmament and development and solve international economic and financial problems. It supports the non-aligned movement's endeavours to establish a new international economic order and resolve international monetary and credit issues in order to enable the non-aligned countries to participate in international cooperation on an equal footing and free from imperialist pressure.

Particularly close ties have been established with the countries opting for socialism, e.g. Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia. The treaties on friendship and cooperation signed with them provide a solid basis for mutually advantageous relations in the economic, trade, scientific and cultural fields, the training of national cadres and the assignment of experts. Beneficial cooperation also marks the relations with other countries which seek to consolidate their political and economic sovereignty. Almost 400 treaties and contracts were signed with these countries which provide a reliable framework for calculable, long-term and stable cooperation in all spheres.

An important facet of the GDR's foreign policy is the political and economic assistance it renders in the spirit of internationalism

to socialist and socialism-oriented countries and national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, above all by shipping urgently needed commodities, including food, medical supplies and clothing as well as equipment and teaching aids to help eradicate illiteracy and train national cadres. To this end considerable funds are made available from private solidarity donations organized above all by the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions and the GDR's Solidarity Committee.

Constructive work in the United Nations Organization

The GDR regards the United Nations as an important and truly universal organization which has set itself the task of maintaining world peace and promoting international cooperation. The GDR is actively and constructively engaged in strengthening the United Nation's role as a forum of the struggle for peace, disarmament and international détente and against colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism. The GDR wants to see the aims and principles of the Charter and the world organization's achievements and potential to help avert the danger of a nuclear conflagration and preserve world peace.

The GDR has shown that it truly fulfils its obligation to spare no effort so that only peace and security and not war emanate from German soil. Thanks to the cooperation between socialist and non-aligned countries the world organization was able to adopt numerous resolutions on measures to safeguard peace and eliminate dangerous hotbeds of conflict. In the disarmament field the GDR sponsored, *inter alia*, resolutions calling for the prohibition of the first use of nuclear weapons, measures to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race, the condemnation of aggressive nuclear doctrines, the stressing of the need for result-oriented negotiations based on the principle of equality and equal security and the demand for the prohibition of chemical weapons and the establishment of chemical-weapon-free zones.

The GDR believes that peace is indivisible and therefore sees the inherent danger of any local dispute exploding into a major conflict in the present tense state of international affairs. For this reason it works in the United Nations and its various bodies for peaceful settlement to all international conflicts and disputes and for strict observance of every nation's right to define its own destiny. In this sense it stands together with the other countries of the socialist community, the non-aligned countries and all peace-loving forces in the search for solutions to conflicts in Central Amer-

ica, the Middle East, West Asia and southern Africa by way of negotiation.

On repeated occasions, the leading representatives of the GDR have exchanged views on a wide range of subjects with the Secretary-General and other senior officers of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The UN Secretary-General praised the GDR's peace policy and its constructive work which has earned it the respect and appreciation of the world organization. This was reflected, inter alia, in its election by an overwhelming majority as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 1980-81 term.

In the future as well the GDR will bring all its influence to bear in order to halt the arms race on earth, prevent its extension into outer space and ensure a life in peace, freedom and prosperity for everyone.

Foreign policy



A unique opportunity for humankind

The Soviet Union has made proposals to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. This programme has the full support of the GDR.

Stage 1 (beginning 1986, 5 to 8 years)

- renunciation by USSR and USA of offensive space-based weapons
- cessation of nuclear weapon tests by USSR and USA
- halving of the two countries' nuclear weapons capable of reaching the territory of the other side
- no further build-up in British and French nuclear arsenals
- no delivery of US strategic and intermediate-range missiles to other countries

Stage 2 (beginning 1990, 5 to 7 years)

- freezing of nuclear weapons belonging to other countries and undertaking by Britain, France and China not to deploy them in other countries
- multilateral ban on space-based offensive weapons (with the leading industrial nations taking part on a compulsory basis)
- a halt to all nuclear tests
- elimination of tactical nuclear weapons with a range up to 1,000 kilometres by all nuclear powers

Stage 3 (beginning no later than 1995)

- Completion of the abolition of all remaining nuclear weapons
- Universal agreement never again to build nuclear weapons

For the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe
From the appeal by the Warsaw Treaty member states of 11 June 1986

- The Warsaw Treaty member states propose a substantial reduction in the land and tactical air forces of the European states and in the corresponding forces of the United States and Canada stationed in Europe. As a first step, a single mutual reduction is proposed to be carried out in such a way that the troop strength of the countries belonging to the opposing military-political alliances be cut by 100,000–150,000 troops on each side within one or two years. Given the willingness of the NATO countries to act likewise, the land and tactical air forces of both military alliances in Europe would, by the early 1990s, be reduced by some 25 per cent as compared with present levels.
- In the appeal, it is proposed to work out such a system of reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments under which the process of reduction would result in a lessening of the danger of surprise attack and would consolidate the strategic stability on the European continent.
- The reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments should be accompanied by reliable and effective verification through both national technical means and international procedures including on-site inspection. For purpose of verification, an international consultative committee should be formed with the participation of representatives of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty as well as of interested neutral and non-aligned and other countries in Europe.
- Mindful of their responsibility, the Warsaw Treaty member states declare that they will never, under any circumstances, initiate military actions against any other state, whether in Europe or in any other region of the world, if they themselves are not victims of aggression.

GDR contributions toward implementing the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act in its relations with capitalist CSCE countries in the period from 1975 to 1985

In 1975, the participating countries at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) adopted, in Helsinki, a Final Act stipulating principles of security in Europe and of cooperation in the fields of economics, science, technology, environmental protection, culture, education, human contacts and information.

The German Democratic Republic has made extensive efforts to implement the Final Act in all its parts:

1) Political and treaty relations

- The General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the GDR Council of State, Erich Honecker, had meetings with the heads of state or government of 17 capitalist CSCE countries.
- The GDR Foreign Minister, Oskar Fischer, met with the foreign ministers from 18 Western CSCE countries for formal consultations on 53 occasions.
- 28 delegations of the People's Chamber of the GDR visited 12 capitalist countries. 42 parliamentary delegations from 19 Western CSCE countries visited the GDR.
- A total of 284 treaties, agreements and contracts were concluded with almost all capitalist CSCE countries to expand bilateral relations.

2) Cooperation in the fields of economics, science, technology and environmental protection

- Desirous to using the opportunities provided by the Final Act for mutually advantageous economic, scientific and technological cooperation, the GDR concluded 171 pertinent treaties and agreements. These include agreements on economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation, long-term trade agreements and governmental accords on most-favoured nation treatment, agreements on air and road traffic, shipping agreements, accords on cooperation in veterinary medicine, fishery agreements and government agreements on environmental protection.
- The GDR is heeding the recommendations of the Final Act to involve small and medium-size businesses in economic and scientific cooperation. For instance, small and medium-size firms in Austria, the FRG and Italy are responsible for 40, 50 and 70 per cent respectively of the GDR's foreign trade turnover with these countries.
- The exchanges of commercial and economic information, the organization of Technical Days and symposiums in the GDR and in capitalist countries, business contacts and opportunities have multiplied.

3) Cooperation in the fields of culture, education, contacts and information

- The GDR concluded 73 treaties and agreements with 16 Western CSCE countries, including cultural agreements, agreements between the academies of sciences on scientific cooperation, agreements on the granting of multiple visas for journalists, and, with France and Italy, agreements on the establishment of cultural centres.
- 4,805 books from 21 capitalist CSCE countries and West Berlin were published in the GDR with a total circulation of more than 86 million copies.
- The GDR buys almost twice the amount of book licences and TV programmes as well as five times more feature films for television from capitalist CSCE countries than vice versa.



Meeting between Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and Chairman of the GDR Council of State, and Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The meeting between the two leaders gave additional impetus to the development of fraternal relations between their parties and nations and to the campaign for disarmament and detente.



Traditional New Year reception for the diplomatic corps at the seat of the Council of State. (above)



Meeting between the joint working group of the SED Central Committee and the SPD parliamentary group concerned with the creation of a corridor free of nuclear weapons in Europe. (above)

Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization in June 1986. (below)





Erich Honecker's arrival at the start of an official visit to Italy.



UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar is welcomed by Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer during his official visit to the GDR.



Horst Sindermann, President of the People's Chamber (fourth from right) receives a delegation from the US House of Representatives in January 1986.



Peace rally before the ruins of the Franciscan monastery church in Berlin to remember the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam visits a factory in Neu-
brandenburg.

The GDR's policy on the peace issue and anti-imperialist solidarity
enjoys full support from its young people.



This orthopedic and rehabilitation centre near Hanoi is one of the lar-
gest projects in Vietnam to be financed by donations from the GDR
public.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is seen here at the Charité
Teaching Hospital in Berlin visiting some of the wounded patriots
from his country who have received medical treatment in the GDR.



Peace rally at the site of the former Buchenwald concentration camp, now a memorial.



The national economy

The German Democratic Republic boasts a modern and highly efficient socialist economy. Its economic achievements have earned it a respected place among the world's leading industrial nations. An efficient industry and advanced agriculture as well as strong scientific and technological potential provide essential conditions for ensuring that all future tasks will be accomplished successfully in a peaceful world.

Economic development in this country is marked by dynamism, continuity and growth. This forms the material foundation for the preservation of peace and the improvement of the people's prosperity, which is the underlying idea of the policy conducted by the party of the working class and the government of the GDR. For this reason, the 11th Congress of the SED, held in April 1986, set new ambitious targets for the GDR's growth-oriented national economy in the period up to the year 1990 and beyond. They are geared towards full-scale intensification of the economy and more rapid development of production, scientific and technological progress and labour productivity.

The foundations of the socialist economy

Socialist ownership of the means of production forms the basis of the relations of production prevailing in the GDR. There is public ownership above all in industry (3,650 enterprises), in the con-

struction sector (almost 550 firms) as well as in the transport and the telecommunications sector.

Cooperative property is dominant in agriculture and the crafts sector. In the distributive sector, most facilities are in public or cooperative ownership.

Alongside the public and cooperative facilities, there exist private retail outlets, crafts enterprises and restaurants. They all have a secure future in the GDR. In the period between 1981 and 1985, roughly 13,500 licences were granted by the government to craftsmen to run private businesses.

Socialist enterprises account for almost 97 per cent of the GDR economy's net output.

The main indicators of the 1986–90 Five-Year Plan

The GDR's economic development in the years from 1986 to 1990 is geared towards the successful continuation of the country's central policy in its synthesis of economic and social policies. Full employment, growing prosperity, high educational standards for all, science and culture will continue to be typical features of life in our country.

The objectives set for the coming five-year period are designed to ensure a high pace of economic growth. The emphasis is on full-scale intensification of social production. This involves making more effective use of existing potential and the most rational application of all resources with a view to attaining good economic results. This applies particularly to scientific capacities, labour potential and working time, machinery and plant, the building stock, raw materials, feedstocks and energy as well as financial resources. Lasting progress in intensification is to bring more finished products for the consumer market as well as the development of the national economy and the fulfilment of foreign trade projects.

Related with this is the more rapid development of key technolo-

gies and their wide application and the manufacture of more top-quality products matching international standards. The GDR's economic potential is increasingly determined by microelectronics, modern computing and computer-aided design and control of production. An important task facing the GDR consists of accelerating the upgrading of raw materials and feedstocks and, concurrently, reducing production input and costs to an increasing extent. The technological base of production will continue to be modernized along planned lines. Use should be made of all opportunities available for raising labour productivity at a quicker rate.

National income is to rise by between 24 and 26 per cent between 1986 and 1990 to exceed 1,300 billion marks. Up to 40 per cent of the planned growth in national income is to be derived from reductions in production input.

How a plan is worked out

Before an economic plan is adopted by the People's Chamber, it is necessary to consider, analyse and calculate thousands of economic factors, conditions and indicators in their mutual interrelationships and diverse interactions. The required starting points and conclusions for ensuring that overall political and economic interests are met are laid down at national level. The five-year and annual plans are worked out by the State Planning Commission in close cooperation with leading economic bodies, industrial combines and enterprises as well as government bodies. The plans contain concrete tasks to be tackled by ministries, industrial combines and counties. Not only economic processes are subject to planning but also tasks and projects geared towards the further improvement of the material and cultural standard of living of the people.

Workers, engineers and office employees in the socialist enterprises and their trade union branches are actively involved in planning and the fulfilment of plan targets. It is a long-standing prac-

tice of works managements and trade union committees to discuss the indicators issued by the government for the coming year carefully with the working people. The discussions centre around concrete targets and projects because the management is obliged to break down the draft plan into the tasks to be completed by individual work teams and, if possible, at individual work stations.

The proposals submitted by the workforce of an enterprise form an integral part of a trade union statement on the plan to be approved at a general meeting of trade union shop-stewards. Works managers and the general managers of industrial combines are required to vindicate their draft plans before the superordinate government department in the presence of trade union representatives.

As many as 6.2 million working people took part in the discussion held in preparation of the national economic plan for 1986, 2.2 million taking the floor and submitting more than 735,000 proposals, suggestions and criticisms. They suggested ways of employing manpower, energy resources, raw materials and substances, machinery and equipment as well as investment funds to greater effect, reducing costs and further improving working and living conditions.

The draft plans of the industrial combines are compiled by the ministries and the State Planning Commission to see whether they are assimilable in order to ensure a well-balanced development of the entire economy.

From these final overall calculations emerges the draft national economic plan. It is first put before the parliamentary committees for consideration and thereafter enacted by the full session of the People's Chamber. The targets fixed become binding indicators for minimum increases to be achieved by the industrial combines, enterprises and local government authorities.

Science and technology

Ever better and fuller use of the possibilities offered by science and technology is of decisive importance in efforts to ensure continued dynamic economic development by way of intensification. Thanks to the application of scientific and technological results, enterprises were able to save an annual average of 500 million man-hours in the period covered by the 1981 – 1985 Five-Year Plan. This is equivalent to the working hours of 300,000 people.

Roughly five per cent of national income is at present set aside for science and technology in the GDR. This testifies to the importance which our society attaches to them. The material and financial funds made available by the state for science and technology increased from 4.2 billion marks in 1970 to 8.2 billion marks in 1982 to total 10.8 billion marks in 1985.

Increasing importance is assumed by the application of key technologies. The results attained by the GDR in this respect include more than 56,600 industrial robots introduced into the national economy by the end of 1985 as well as 11,200 CAD/CAM work stations. Another 75,000 to 80,000 industrial robots will be manufactured and brought into use from 1986 to 1990. The number of CAD/CAM work stations will rise to between 85,000 and 90,000 while the output of biotechnological products is to increase by 200 per cent by 1990 compared with 1985.

Thanks to scientific and technological findings, the product innovation rate is to reach a level of at least 30 per cent in industry, and for consumer durables even 45 to 50 per cent. It is a matter of manufacturing new top-quality products in large batches in keeping with consumer demand and at low cost, products that are in great demand on the world and domestic consumer markets.

High standards have been set regarding the closer combination and interaction of science and production and the close cooperation of academies and colleges with industrial combines, enterprises and institutions. Cooperation in research which takes place on the basis of the plan and economic contracts is geared towards

major innovations, which can only be achieved by a forward-looking basic research programme, and to top achievements in science and technology which can be applied with great economic effect. In 1985, for instance, 37 of the 41 natural science, technological and medical research institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the GDR worked together with industrial combines, enterprises and other partners on the basis of over 550 economic contracts. More than 30 per cent of the scientific and technological potential of the Academy is bound up with industry by contracts, and another ten per cent with agriculture, the health service and other sectors.

Naturally, the standards set for intensification also apply to science. The task before future-orientated basic research is to provide the foundations required for ensuring economic and social development in the 1990s. It will concentrate on the priorities and main directions of what are expected to be the most important scientific disciplines and key technologies such as information processing and technology, highly effective man-machine communication as well as flexible and computer-aided automation solutions. It is important to do the required scientific groundwork in the field of microelectronics and optoelectronics for new procedures and technological methods, including fibre optics and laser technology. Utmost attention is payed to scientific work designed to enhance the exploration, mining and use of indigenous raw materials, the development of highly productive processes for their conversion into higher-grade products, particularly in the field of coal-based chemistry, and the production of feedstocks on the basis of domestic raw materials.

The GDR is able to fall back on considerable potential in this respect, which is testified to by the fact that more than 200,000 highly qualified working people are employed in the research and development sector.

Industry

Accounting for 70 per cent of the produced national income, industry provides the decisive foundation for the country's increasing economic strength.

Of the GDR's workforce of approximately 8.5 million, more than 3.2 million are employed in industry. Decisive branches of industry are energy and fuel, chemicals, metallurgy, building materials, water management, mechanical and automotive engineering, electrical engineering and electronics, instruments manufacture, light industry and the textiles and food industry.

Microelectronics is among the GDR's youngest industries. It has developed dynamically since 1977, registering the highest growth rates of all branches. The GDR works closely together with the USSR in this sector. Specialization and cooperation is increasing constantly in the development of modern standard technologies, new components and microprocessors, as well as the production of special-purpose devices for LSI and VLSI circuits, as well as passive components and subassemblies for microelectronics. The value of microelectronic components and devices produced by 1990 will rise to at least 42 billion marks.

Raw lignite continues to play a key role in the development of the GDR's **energy and raw materials base**. It is its most important source of primary energy. The focus is on the development of new techniques for its conversion into higher-grade sources of energy and chemical feedstocks. It is of prime importance for the GDR's national economy that fuller use is made of indigenous raw materials, i.e. natural gas, mineral and silicate raw materials, raw timber and recycled materials as well as lignite.

The **chemical and metallurgical industries** are of great importance in ensuring material and technological supplies for the national economy. Upgrading processes will be continued systematically in the period up to 1990. In the mechanical engineering sector industrial output is to rise by between 30 and 32 per cent by 1990.

The further development of **consumer goods** production to ensure supplies for the domestic market and for exports is another priority of our national economy. Consumer goods should be marked by top scientific and technological standards with regard to the refining levels of the materials used and their use value. They should be something new on the international market, be easily sold on the domestic market and exported profitably. The capacity and efficiency of traditional consumer goods combines and enterprises will be further raised for this purpose through systematic reconstruction and modernization schemes. All combines primarily engaged in capital goods manufacture are expected to produce consumer goods in special departments or affiliated enterprises and to develop their capacity to an extent that their output of consumer goods accounts for at least five per cent of their overall manufacturing output. Further increases in production will, above all, have to be ensured in the area of consumer electronics, sports and leisure articles, as well as textiles and high-quality luxury foods.

Services for the general public and public facilities will be improved by raising the capacity of nationally-owned service centres and by promoting the activities of craft production cooperatives and the private crafts sector.

Industrial combines

As the largest economic units in the GDR combines constitute the basic form for organizing modern large-scale production and, consequently, the centrepiece of the planned socialist economy.

At present there exist 157 centrally administered combines in industry, construction, telecommunications and transport. Their general managers are directly subordinate to the relevant ministers. In addition, there are 126 industrial and building combines coming under the economic councils at county level. These combines have a total workforce of just under four million, i.e. almost 50 per cent of the GDR's overall labour force.

The combines in their entirety and the individual enterprises forming part of them are given their own state plans and are responsible for their accounting activity. Enterprises affiliated to combines are independent both economically and legally and bear their own names.

Industrial combines and their affiliated enterprises combine science and technology organically with production and the sale of products in accordance with economic standards. Consequently, combines are in a position to implement large-scale economic projects effectively off their own bat.

Almost the entire research and development capacity of industry and other branches of the economy is concentrated in combines. Long-term agreements concluded with the Academy of Sciences, universities and colleges make it possible to make new scientific and technological findings and to bring them to industrial use promptly, to apply highly productive processes without loss of time and to ensure high levels of efficiency in production.

All combines possess efficient departments for the in-house manufacture of rationalization equipment used for the introduction of most up-to-date technological methods and, above all, the modernization of fixed assets.

Socialist competition and the innovators movement

Socialist competition is inseparably linked with the state plan. It represents the chief form of working people's democratic participation in management, planning and plan fulfilment. Socialist competition is organized and guided by the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions. Given the introduction of most up-to-date technology into the production process, socialist competition is geared towards achieving productivity increases and spreading the most successful experiences. Outstanding initiatives and performances in socialist competition are honoured with bonuses and trade union or government distinctions.

The innovators movement forms a significant part of socialist competition for the accomplishment of scientific and technological projects. The movement is actively promoted and supported by trade union committees in enterprises and institutions. There is an annually rising number of workers, technicians and engineers who work with personal commitment and contribute their own new ideas to scientific and technological advance. Over one third of all workers—every fourth of whom is a woman and every second a young person—is actively involved in the innovators movement.

In 1985, the number of innovators in the nationally owned sector of the economy reached the two-million mark. The practical use of innovations rose from 5.6 billion marks in 1984 to 5.9 billion in 1985.

Women in the economy

Women account for 50 per cent of the GDR's workforce. Naturally, they are on a par with men, receiving equal pay for equal work. Differences in educational standards between men and women dating back to the capitalist past have been eliminated. Women's involvement in the work process in the GDR has always gone hand in hand with the improvement of their vocational qualifications.

Almost 79 per cent of all women employed in the economic sector have completed some vocational training. They account for more than 36 per cent of all university and college and over 60 per cent of all technical school graduates, as well as 50 per cent of all skilled workers. Women have won a place for themselves in many technical occupations. Approximately one third of all shift workers in industry are women and of the female production workers under 25 years of age, 50 per cent are employed in the multi-shift system.

Enterprises and institutions attach great attention to the creation of the best possible conditions for women to reconcile their

duties in occupational life with those at home within the family and their own training. This is the special concern of the women's commissions run by enterprise trade union committees in industrial enterprises, government authorities and cooperative boards.

Youth initiatives

Today, there is hardly any enterprise or firm in the GDR where the socialist youth organization, the Free German Youth, does not make a tangible contribution to the fulfilment of the country's economic plans. The more than 6,000 youth teams and the FDJ members involved in 7,800 youth projects play a significant role in implementing the new phase of our economic strategy and particularly in the efforts made to produce top scientific and technological performances.

Youth promotion plans are drawn up in all combines and enterprises. Works managers and public organizations are required to support youth teams, to help set up new ones and to allocate to them projects for which they bear full responsibility.

Youth projects of long standing are the "FDJ Initiative Berlin", the "Natural Gas Pipeline" in the USSR and the "Electrification of the Railways" project. New major projects have been added to these such as the "Intensification of the Production of Higher-grade Chemical Fibres", "Car Manufacture", "Livestock Production" and "Microelectronics" initiatives as well as the "Materials Saving" campaign of the Free German Youth. The latter campaign resulted in gains of over eight billion marks in the period between 1981 and 1985. The amount of scrap collected by members of the FDJ and the Pioneer Organization is equivalent to the raw materials required by the Brandenburg steel and rolling mill, which is one of the GDR's most important such mills, to produce over a period of 11 months. The waste paper collected by them suffices to provide the country's largest paper factory in Schwedt with the raw materials it needs for two years of production. Under

the housing modernization campaign of the FDJ, almost 58,000 dwellings were completed from 1981 to the summer of 1985, most of them being allocated to young married couples. At the 12th FDJ Congress in 1985, the up-and-coming generation assumed the obligation to rehabilitate roughly 100,000 dwellings by 1990 and at least 20,000 of these in the countryside.

In 1984-85, 1.2 million girls and boys participated in the Young Innovators Movement (MMM). This means that approximately two thirds of all apprentices, young skilled workers and students were involved in this movement of young people. They tackled 174,593 projects with gains for the national economy totalling 1.56 billion marks. Of the 2,499 innovations on display at the Central Innovators Fair in 1985, 1,130 were of a top international scientific and technological standard in the areas concerned. Almost 1,400 applications for patents were made within the framework of the innovators competition for young people.

A member of the CMEA

Socialist economic integration is being intensified further at a qualitatively higher level as a decisive factor in the steady economic development of the GDR and the other countries of the socialist community. Of special importance are the resolutions adopted by the members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) at their summit in July 1984 and the Long-term Programme adopted in December 1985, as well as a number of far-reaching bilateral agreements.

Within the framework of the Long-term Programme, coordinated measures were agreed on for the creation and utilization of completely new technologies and technological processes through the concentration of all forces available and close, large-scale cooperation. The accent is on the

- Introduction of microelectronics into the national economy,
- Large-scale automation,
- Nuclear energy,

- New substances and technological processes for their production and processing and
- Biotechnology.

The socialist community has available all the forces and potential required for meeting the tough challenges of our time. One of its most important objectives is the accelerated transition to the application of intensive patterns in the economy and increasing efficiency. This is attained primarily through a substantially higher rate of scientific and technological progress, by guaranteeing continued growth of social production as a prerequisite for strengthening the material and technological base of the national economy and for enhancing people's prosperity. This includes mastery of key technologies and improvement of the technological standards of products, a rapid rate of product innovation, expansion of the export potential, rational locational distribution of the productive forces and acceleration of the process of gradual approximation of the CMEA countries' economic development levels. The tasks and projects arising therefrom form part and parcel of the individual countries' national economic plans.

The GDR works actively on the joint solution of these projects as part of the Long-term Programme for Scientific and Technological Progress up to the Year 2000 which was adopted at the CMEA meeting in December 1985.

In the period between 1981 and 1985, the GDR was involved in the implementation of roughly 350 agreements on specialization and cooperation. Long-term agreements concluded with the USSR and the other CMEA partners guarantee the sale of GDR products for years ahead and ensure vital imports. In the 1986-90 period, these countries will account for approximately 63 per cent of the GDR's entire foreign trade volume.

With its huge economic and scientific potential, with its wealth of experience and reliability, the USSR has for decades been the GDR's No. 1 partner in the CMEA. The Long-term Programme on Cooperation in the Field of Science, Technology and Production in the Period up to the Year 2000 concluded in 1984 on a bilateral

basis marked an historic step towards the further intensification of economic integration between the two countries. The programme contains the two partners' clear ideas concerning the further pooling of their material and technological resources and their scientific and technological potential with a view to increasing their economic strength and its effect. It thus provides a solid foundation for determining the basic trends for the future development of the GDR's national economy.

Plan coordination with the Soviet Union and the other members of the CMEA is the chief instrument for harmonizing economic policies. The main directions, tasks and projects for mutually advantageous cooperation have been laid down in concrete terms for the 1986-90 period. The protocol on plan coordination signed with the Soviet Union stipulated in detail how collaboration can be rendered more closely in future, how specialization and cooperation can be deepened, how top performances can be achieved in science, technology and production and mutual goods deliveries be developed along dynamic lines.

At the beginning of 1986, there existed about 220 agreements concluded between the GDR and the USSR at governmental and ministerial level and covering almost all spheres of economic endeavour. As things stand today, scientific institutions in the two countries cooperate on hundreds of subjects in the field of applied and basic research.

A major role is played by joint efforts in the reconstruction and rationalization of enterprises to raise productivity and product quality and to reduce costs. This applies particularly to enterprises in the mechanical engineering sector, electrical engineering and electronics, the glass industry and the consumer goods sector.

The GDR, which covers a great part of its vital raw materials and fuel requirements with imports from the Soviet Union, participates in building natural gas pipelines and other projects in the USSR. Of major importance in meeting transport needs economically is the setting up of a railway ferry between the GDR and the USSR via the

Baltic Sea, connecting Mukran (Rügen island) and Klaipeda (Lithuanian SSR).

Foreign trade

For the GDR's national economy to develop dynamically and continually, it is also necessary to ensure the sale of its products for long periods in advance.

Foreign trade is the monopoly of the state in the GDR. This is a principle enshrined in the country's Constitution. The commercial dealings of the GDR are carried out by efficient foreign trade firms or combines, specially authorized by the government for this purpose. The foreign trade monopoly held by the state ensures that inter-governmental treaties and agreements are observed. At the same time, it protects the GDR against the negative influences emanating from capitalist crises, speculation, currency erosion and inflation, attempted blackmail and boycott. The GDR, for its part, guarantees economic security for its trading partners through the state foreign trade monopoly.

In keeping with the industrial structure of the GDR, machinery and other products of the metalworking industry account for roughly 47 per cent, chemicals for about 12 per cent and consumer durables for approximately 15 per cent of its exports.

The foreign trade activities of the GDR are, of course, also designed to ensure for its economy stable and systematic supplies of raw materials, sources of energy, semi-manufactures, machinery and equipment for rationalization purposes incorporating the latest scientific and technological features. Naturally, the GDR also imports goods for the consumer market, for instance, food and related products, citrus and tropical fruits, spices and herbs, and consumer durables.

The GDR's **foreign trade relations** and the volume of goods exchanges are expanding constantly. The GDR has commercial dealings with over 130 countries. Trade is carried out on a contractual basis with almost 100 countries. Official trade representations and

representations of foreign trade firms exist in more than 80 countries. The GDR's foreign trade turnover had a volume of approximately 790 billion marks in the period between 1981 and 1985. A considerable surplus in exports has been achieved annually since 1982.

With 40 per cent (1985), the USSR has the greatest share in the GDR's foreign trade. The long-term trade agreement concluded between the GDR and the USSR for the period between 1986 and 1990 provides for mutual deliveries exceeding a value of 380 billion marks. The agreement is without precedent in the world.

In accordance with the agreements on plan coordination and the long-term trade agreements concluded between the GDR and the other CMEA countries for the 1986-90 period and in accordance with its product mix, the GDR will, above all, export products from the metalworking industry and the electrical engineering and electronics sectors. In so doing, it will make a considerable contribution to the more effective and efficient arrangement of production in the CMEA countries. These supplies testify to the high standards attained in cooperation and specialization in research, development and production within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. As a result, it is possible for the countries concerned to reduce their production ranges and to manufacture products on the basis of bilateral and multilateral inter-governmental agreements for which their countries offer the most favourable conditions. It is also possible in this way to introduce series production at favourable costs.

The GDR supplies the USSR with machine tools, among other things, about 70 per cent of which are manufactured under specialization and cooperation agreements. Textile machines, railway vehicles, ships, farm machinery and microelectronic components produced in the GDR also incorporate a high degree of specialization.

In turn, the GDR receives from the USSR and the other CMEA countries remarkable amounts of industrial goods needed in all branches of the national economy for purposes of intensification,

rationalization and automation. Equipment for nuclear power stations and for the metallurgical industry, machine tools and excavators from the Soviet Union, trams, equipment for the heavy engineering industry and water management from Czechoslovakia, textile machines, road vehicles and agricultural implements from Poland, buses and power station equipment from Hungary, fork-lift trucks and construction machinery from Bulgaria and electrical engineering and electronics products as well as rail vehicles from Romania make up a great share of GDR imports from the socialist community.

The GDR imports vital raw materials and fuels from the USSR and the other CMEA countries and delivers large amounts of potash, chemicals and lignite briquettes to them.

In the period between 1986 and 1990, the GDR will receive from the Soviet Union 85.4 million tonnes of mineral oil, 34.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas, 22.5 million tonnes of hard coal and 8.5 million tonnes of iron ore. Between 80 and 100 per cent of the GDR's import demands for primary materials and sources of energy are covered by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Socialist Republic of Romania and other CMEA countries, as well as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the People's Republic of China, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Albania. A major part of the above-mentioned deliveries are the result of joint investment projects.

In its foreign trade relations with African, Asian and Latin American countries, the GDR is guided by the principle of equality and mutual advantage with a view to supporting the developing countries in their efforts to gain economic independence and to raise their economic efficiency and potential.

In the period between 1970 and 1985, the GDR set up more than 800 industrial complexes in developing countries and another 70 or so such projects were under construction at the beginning of 1986.

In addition, the GDR gives ever wider scope to the provision of

scientific and technological know how, patents and licences and the training of national cadres. In 1985 alone, approximately 700 specialists were sent by the GDR to work in developing countries and about 6,300 people from there came to the GDR to attend technical training courses. Ckd (completely knocked-down) exports have seen particularly rapid development. They make it possible for the developing countries to set up departments for the assembly of industrial products, which complies with the young nation states' aspirations to develop their own national production capacity.

Overall relations between the GDR and the developing countries, especially their economic links, are largely determined by the activities of joint government commissions or joint economic commissions. These bodies meet regularly to discuss the level of economic cooperation, to reach agreement on new projects and lend support to the foreign trade organizations and firms of the two sides in their work to enhance trade.

The non-socialist economic region accounts for roughly one third of the GDR's foreign trade turnover, which testifies to its strong involvement in the international economic division of labour that exists between countries with differing social systems. Exports to Finland, France, Japan, Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden have increased in particular. The volume achieved in foreign trade with these states exceeded 61 billion marks in 1985.

Despite worsening sales conditions, products from the GDR have held their own in the face of strong competition on these markets. Mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and electronics, particularly machine tools, printing presses and textile machinery, cranes and mining equipment, chemical plant, scientific instruments, products of precision mechanics and optics, office machines and technical consumer goods as well as a broad range of chemical products have for years enjoyed a good reputation in capitalist countries.

The GDR is doing all it can to develop trade with these countries

in the interests of the policy of peaceful coexistence and for mutual advantage. The GDR advocates cooperation in foreign trade on a long-term, stable and contractual basis, in particular with economic circles showing a positive approach to the policy of détente and economic collaboration.

International fairs and exhibitions carry great weight for the development of foreign trade. The GDR participates annually in some 350 such events abroad.

Twice a year, early in March and early in September, the GDR itself plays host to the international business community at the Leipzig Fair, which will celebrate its 825th anniversary in 1990. Taking place under the motto "For open world trade and technological progress", this old and famous institution caters for the interests of the world's forces committed to détente and peace. The Leipzig Trade Fair takes into account the new trends in economic, scientific and technological development, a fact which finds clear expression in the branches that are given priority. Apart from microelectronics, questions related to the sparing use of materials and energy, automation and the upgrading of raw materials for the chemical and metallurgical industry, special attention is devoted to problems of nutrition, environmental and health protection, as well as leisure pursuits and sports.

At the Spring Trade Fair, the emphasis is on major technological branches such as iron and steel, heavy engineering and plant construction, farm machinery, machine tools and scientific instruments, construction machines, electrical engineering and electronics, the whole range of consumer goods branches and books.

The Leipzig Autumn Fairs are largely concerned with chemicals and chemical plant, printing presses, textile machinery, railway wagons, medical and laboratory instruments and equipment, facilities for teaching and research, as well as leisure pursuits. A programme of ambitious scientific and technological lectures, congresses and symposia which lend impetus to commercial dealings coincides with the Leipzig Trade Fair. In great demand internation-

ally are the Gold Medals awarded at the Leipzig Fair for outstanding products on the basis of strict principles.

Agriculture

Cooperative farmers and agricultural workers have roughly 0.37 hectares of farmland available per head of the population to meet the demand of the general public for food and of industry for agricultural raw materials. 57.5 per cent of the GDR territory is farmland and 27.5 per cent is woodland. The country's farmland comprises some 6.2 million hectares of which 4.7 million hectares are arable land (75.8 per cent).

The 850,000 cooperative farmers and agricultural workers permanently employed in socialist agriculture display diligence, knowledge and skill every day in ensuring stable food supplies for the population almost entirely from domestic resources.

Roughly 4,300 agricultural production cooperatives (LPG) specializing in crop and in livestock production, market gardening cooperatives (GPG) and inter-farm complexes in the field of crop and livestock production cultivate 87 per cent of the farmland and possess 83 per cent of the country's herds of livestock. LPGs account for 95 per cent of the crops and 76 per cent of the livestock products supplied to the state, this making them the chief producers of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials in the GDR.

The state farms (VEG) have made a decisive contribution to the development of agriculture. State farms specializing in crop production cultivate 7.1 per cent of the GDR's farmland and those specializing in livestock production possess 11 per cent of the animal herds. They have comprehensive tasks to fulfil as far as the breeding of productive varieties and species is concerned.

At present, the LPGs and VEGs have at their disposal 148,000 tractors, 34,000 lorries, as well as roughly 17,000 combine harvesters and other farm machinery.

An important role is played by the subsidiary farming operations run by cooperative farmers and agricultural workers and the gar-

dens of the more than 1.3 million members of the Association of Allotment Gardeners and Small Stock Breeders (VKSK). From 1981 to 1985, the contribution made by individual producers to overall supplies averaged 12.0 per cent for fat stock, 39 per cent for eggs, 28.8 per cent for fruit, 10.9 per cent for vegetables and 29.1 per cent for wool. Rabbit meat and honey is almost exclusively supplied by small-scale producers. The government guarantees the sale of their products at stable prices.

The resolutions adopted by the SED and the government of the GDR in 1982-84 to improve management, planning and cost accounting, the implementation of the agricultural price reform and the introduction of material incentives in LPGs, VEGs, market gardening cooperatives (GPGs) and inter-farm complexes were geared towards the further implementation of the country's economic strategy in keeping with the requirements of agriculture. Greater attention will be attached to the efficiency of production and the economic interests of agricultural enterprises and cooperative farmers will be reconciled more fully with overall national economic interests.

The agricultural price reform which came into force in 1984 brought about more favourable conditions of reproduction for the LPGs and VEGs. The reform has the effect that the prices of agricultural products better reflect actual social input. Farmers' good qualities, i.e. their propensity towards measuring, weighing and calculating, can thus be brought into effect more fully in tapping hidden reserves with a view to producing more, better and cheaper products with the help of existing resources. Reduction of unit consumption, particularly of energy and fuel, is a matter of special importance to the national economy.

A solid and stable farm layout has emerged following the strengthening of LPGs and VEGs, both those specializing in crop and in livestock farming. As things stand today, LPGs and VEGs work in 1,193 inter-farm complexes. They have proceeded to render the operation of their inter-farm councils more effective and binding with a view to making better use of the soil and improving its fertil-

ity as well as raising yields per animal further while ensuring fodder requirements from local resources. Since 1984, the members of the LPGs and the workers employed in VEGs have charged their inter-farm councils with the fulfilment of management tasks. The potential inherent in cooperative property is thus used to a greater extent and the integrated reproduction process made more effective. In addition, a contribution is made in this way to overcoming existing differences in yields at a more rapid pace and creating more favourable conditions for the large-scale application of intensive patterns of development. The legal independence and economic responsibility of LPGs and VEGs for running their own economic affairs is strengthened through cooperation. Close cooperation provides good conditions for the broad introduction of the latest scientific and technological findings. Agriculture is increasingly developing into a branch of applied science, with the farmers using the latest developments in the field of microelectronics and biotechnology.

Life in the countryside

Constant attention to working and living conditions, provision of more and more opportunities for an active intellectual and cultural life in attractive villages – these are characteristic features of the policy conducted by the socialist state. Cooperative farmers enjoy material security and their life is marked by a sense of social belonging. Their income has increased and their standard of living has drawn closer to that in the towns.

Female farmers benefit from extensive social measures nowadays. They are entitled to a baby year and to a 40-hour working week if they have two children. Naturally, the allowances and benefits granted to families with three or more children also apply to families in rural areas.

Great attention is paid to pensioners and to LPG members unable to work. The LPGs share responsibility for ensuring them social care.

Farmers' children have access to all educational facilities. In agriculture, forestry and food processing some 25,000 apprentices are trained in 32 trades and occupations annually, i.e. specialists in the field of crop and livestock production, soil improvement, farm machinery and tractor mechanics, horticulturists, skilled forestry workers and skilled meat preparation workers, shepherds and others. Approximately 80 per cent of them conclude apprenticeship contracts with an LPG. Apprentices are free to apply for LPG membership even during their training. Over 90 per cent of all those employed in agriculture have completed some sort of training. Roughly 10 per cent of them are university, college or technical school graduates.

The life of people in the countryside has been made easier through a number of facilities which they would not want to do without: houses of culture, village clubs, kindergartens and crèches, medical facilities, modern shopping centres and transport connections with neighbouring localities. Visits to concerts, the theatre and museums, participation in amateur art groups, reading and the like form part and parcel of village life today. Intellectual and cultural activities are a real necessity for many people in the countryside. It should also be mentioned that the Farmers' Mutual Aid Association, the political mass organization of farmers, does a great deal of work to enrich the intellectual and cultural scene.

Environmental protection

Environmental policy measures are designed to implement two tasks which are closely related. On the one hand, it is a matter of improving working and living conditions and, on the other, of raising efficiency levels in the national economy.

The economic strategy of the GDR for the period up to the year 2000 also takes into account the objectives of environmental protection. Priority is given to the conversion of raw materials into higher-grade products and the reduction of energy, materials and

water consumption in the production sector. In addition, it is a matter of promptly implementing a number of projects such as the introduction of coherent production and water cycles and technological procedures producing the lowest possible amount of waste or none at all. Similarly, it is necessary to make better use of reusable materials and to recover substances from waste products – for instance, waste water and household refuse – which would otherwise be discharged and pollute the air, water and soil or be deposited on tips.

The proportion of re-used industrial waste has increased from 20 per cent in the middle of the 1970s to well over 40 per cent today. In 1985 the raw materials saved for the national economy in this way exceeded a value of six billion marks.

All these measures brought major advances regarding the rational utilization of natural resources, the reduction of air, water and soil pollution and the improvement of environmental conditions, particularly in industrial conurbations.

The most important projects to be implemented in the field of environmental policy are incorporated in the national economic plans. They number between 50 and 60 annually. Their fulfilment is strictly monitored by the Council of Ministers of the GDR and the advisory council attached to it charged with environmental protection. Such projects include, for instance, the construction of waste water treatment plant for industrial enterprises as well as efficient dust removal plant.

Reasonable use of the natural resources and active management and protection of the natural environment serve the interests of all people and are unthinkable without citizen initiatives. This is why nature conservation in the GDR is regarded as a matter concerning government authorities, all enterprises and firms, and each and every individual. The Environmental Policy Act adopted by the People's Chamber of the GDR back in 1954 was the first such Act in German history to make the protection of nature against harmful influences a matter for all citizens. In the meantime, a large number of laws have been enacted which give the

population wide scope for active participation and even expect them to do so. The most important of these Acts is that adopted in 1970.

Impressive work in the field of environmental protection is done by the elected members of local people's assemblies together with representatives of the National Front of the GDR, public organizations, industrial combines, enterprises and cooperatives.

Roughly 55,000 people from all walks of life cooperate with great commitment in the Nature and Environment Society attached to the League of Culture of the GDR. The focus of their activities is on effective environmental management, landscape cultivation, rational use, protection and improvement of the soil, forests and water as well as the study and protection of flora and fauna. In addition, the Society sees to it that by-products and waste materials are re-used more effectively.

The GDR promotes and supports international cooperation and is actively involved in the work of many organizations and various environmental schemes.

In tackling environmental tasks, the GDR works closely together with the USSR and other socialist countries within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. The GDR is helping resolve 14 comprehensive problems under an agreement concluded by the CMEA member countries on measures to protect nature and through the large-scale programme of cooperation in environmental protection and management and in making rational use of natural resources. This applies, above all, to water control, protection of the atmosphere, ecological systems and the landscape and the development of low-waste and waste-free techniques.

In the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act, the GDR advocates active cooperation with the non-socialist states. An expression of this is its great commitment in helping implement the convention on the protection of the maritime environment in the Baltic Sea area which was signed in 1974. The same holds true of the GDR's bilateral cooperation with Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and

Austria which is developing to mutual advantage. Recently, practical steps have also been taken together with the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin.

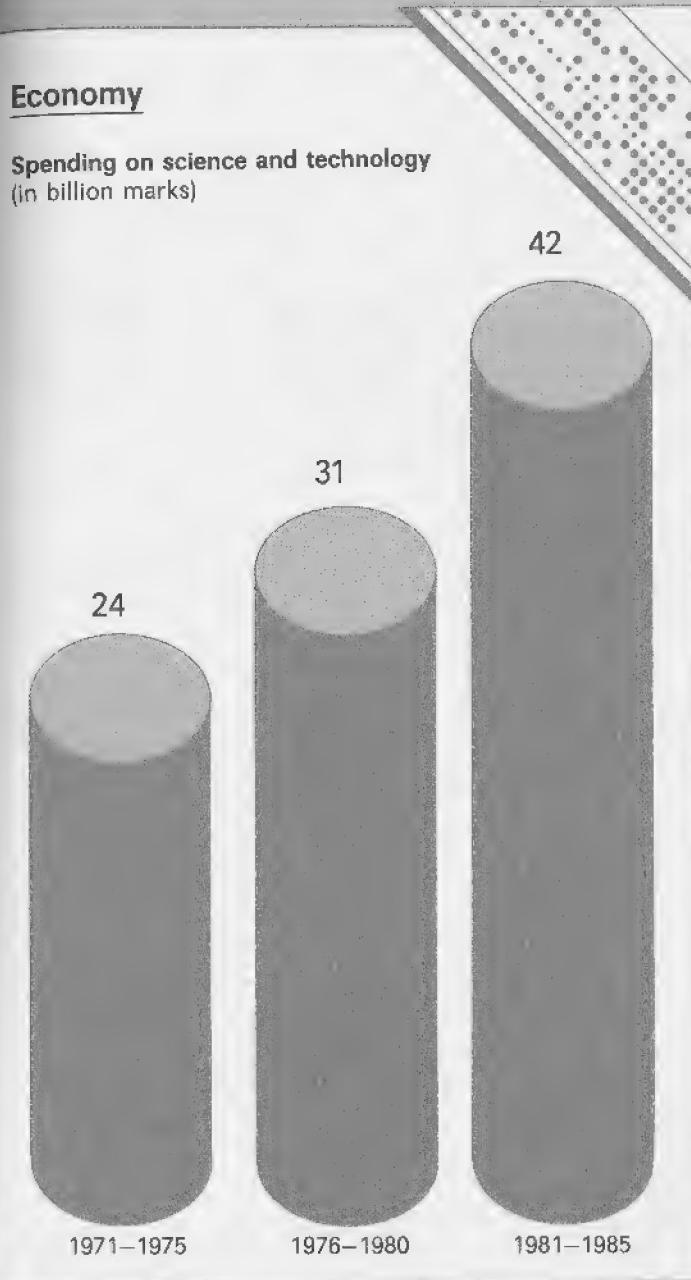
As a member of the United Nations Organization and a number of its specialized agencies, the GDR has good opportunities to be actively involved in the solution of global and regional environmental problems. It attaches special importance to implementing UNEP projects and the "Man and Biosphere" programme of UNESCO.

The focus of the GDR's cooperation in the ECE is on activities to introduce low-waste and waste-free techniques and processes and measures to reduce the transboundary transportation of air pollutants. An important foundation of all these measures and activities are the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted by the ECE countries at the All-European Environmental Congress held in Geneva in November 1979 as well as the Declaration on Low-Waste and Non-Waste Technologies and the Reutilization and Recycling of Wastes. Furthermore, the GDR devotes great attention to the work of the senior advisers to ECE governments on environmental problems.

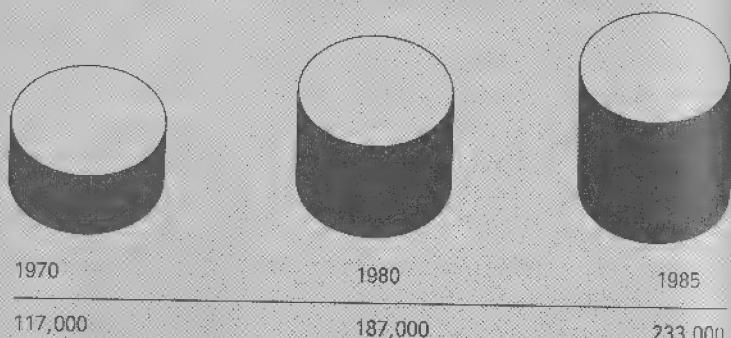
Since October 1977 ten-month courses dealing with the management and planning of ecological systems have been run at Dresden's Technical University in collaboration with UNEP and UNESCO for leading officials from developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Economy

Spending on science and technology
(in billion marks)



National income
(million marks at comparable prices, basis 1980)



National income = gross national product – production input. It represents the new value created through productive work. The accumulation and consumption funds are fed from this net income.

Labour productivity in the national economy (1970 = 100)

1975	1980	1985
129	155	191

Fixed assets of the national economy
(million marks at 1980 prices)

1970	1980	1985
687,000	1,038,000	1,259,000

Investments, total
(million marks at 1985 prices)

1971–1975	1981–1985
251,000	319,000

1971–1975	1981–1985
123,000	174,000

- In the Schwarze Pumpe combine, the successful trial run of a new gasification technique marked the end of a major stage on the way towards producing synthesis gas from coal with a high salt content. The new technique makes it possible to ensure the full extraction of all useful lignite constituents in future.

- In the oil processing industry, the proportion of light products – which lay at a level of just under 50 per cent in 1980 – has increased continually. In the Walter Ulbricht Leuna-Werke complex, a large plant came on stream which makes it possible for the first time now to process all of the oil feedstocks into light products. The same quantity of oil can now be converted into twice as much fuel and 3.3 times the former amount of feedstocks suitable for further processing. In 1990, light products will account for 75 per cent of all products obtained by processing oil in the GDR.

Machinery incorporating microelectronics components as a percentage share of overall machinery output

	1981	1985
Plastics and elastomeric processing plant	43	75
Cutting-type machine tools	11	72
Printing presses	27	60
Textile machines	12	45

Robots employed in industry

1981	1983	1985
14,000	32,000	57,000

The GDR is one of the world's countries which are in a position to manufacture microelectronics components and LSI circuits.

Steps will be taken to ensure that by 1990 the existing range of integrated circuits is expanded by means of VLSI circuits. The output of active electronic components will be raised by over 26 per cent annually and that of passive components by 12 per cent. Scientific and technological research will focus on the development of 16-bit and 32-bit microprocessors, optoelectronic components for fibre-optics communications systems, sensors and effectors on a microelectronic, optoelectronic and micromechanical basis, colour display tubes, and discrete components. The products manufactured in 1985 paved the way for the manufacture of a 1-megabit memory. The next generation, which was tackled in preparation for the 11th Party Congress, will meet the demands of the components industry on an advanced international level in the early 1990s. The aim is to manufacture the equipment needed for a 4-megabit memory.

**Utilization of highly productive machinery in industry
(hours per day)**

1970	1980	1985
12.5	15	16.7

Innovators movement

Innovators (millions)	1970	1980	1985
0.7		1.7	2.0

Annual financial benefits accruing from the application of innovations (million marks)

1970	1980	1985
2,500	4,500	5,900

- The metallurgical industry is currently in a state of complete transition to the production of high-value products. The main focus of efforts in this context is the Ernst Thälmann converter steel works, the most sophisticated of its kind in Europe, which is attached to the Eisenhüttenkombinat Ost. The wide-strip hot rolling line which is being set up together with the Soviet Union will close the full metallurgical cycle from the smelting of ore to the manufacture of high-value sheets and strips. By 1990, products with a high added-value content will account for 90 per cent of total output in this branch.

- At the 1986 Leipzig Spring Trade Fair, the Berlin-based parent plant of the 7. Oktober machine tool combine presented a new state-of-the-art product, a microelectronically controlled spur-gear grinding machine of the generating type. This control unit obviates the need for 1,050 different components requiring half a tonne of steel and half a tonne of cast iron as well as 400 man-hours for their manufacture. The machine incorporates a higher degree of automation, which not only results in greater benefits for the producer but also in considerable savings of time, energy and costs for the users.

Transport

- The transport sector hauls roughly a billion tonnes of freight annually.
- The railways are the chief transporter within the country. They account for almost four fifths of overall transport services. Thanks to the shifting

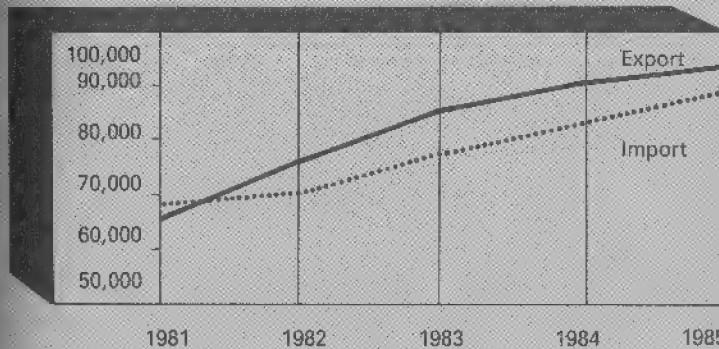
of freight transport from road to rail, they handled approximately 33 million tonnes more in 1985 than in 1981.

- The GDR has a railway network of 14,226 kilometres, over 2,600 kilometres of which had been electrified by the end of 1985.
- About 38 per cent of the GDR's railway services are now carried out by electrical traction as against 20 per cent in 1981.

Foreign trade turnover (million marks)

1970	1980	1985
39,600	120,100	180,200

Export and import (million marks)



Percentage of working people with completed vocational training in agriculture

1970	1980	1985
57.6	89.0	90.5

**Yields of selected crops
(Tonnes per hectare)**

	1971/75	1976/80	1981/85
Grain	3.62	3.58	4.13
Wheat	4.07	4.17	4.86
Oil-bearing crops	2.20	2.28	2.25
Potatoes	17.1	17.5	20.6
Sugar-beet	27.9	26.9	29.4

Livestock

(Head per 100 hectares of agricultural land)

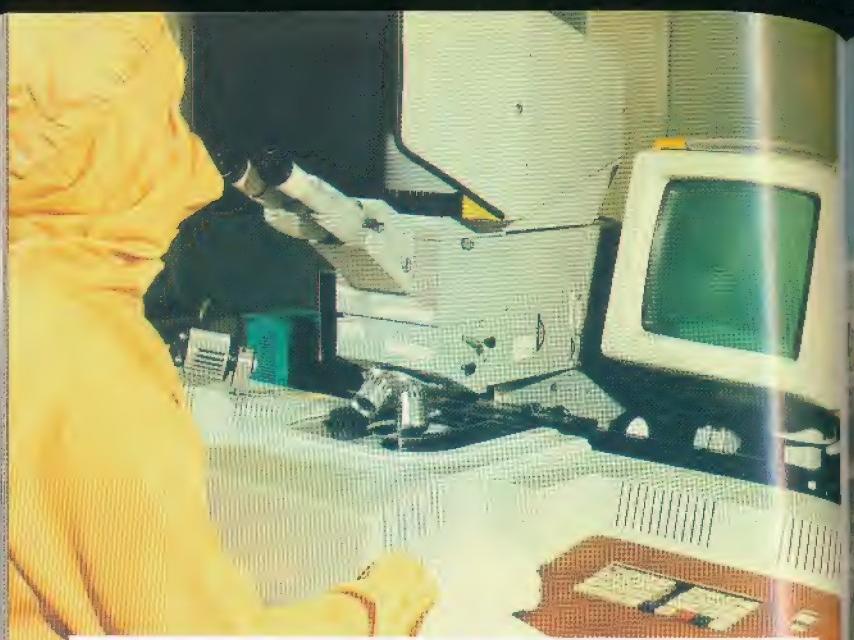
	1970	1980	1985
Cattle	83	91	94
Cows	34	34	33
Pigs	154	205	208
Sheep	25	32	42
Laying hens	405	428	405

Animal production yields

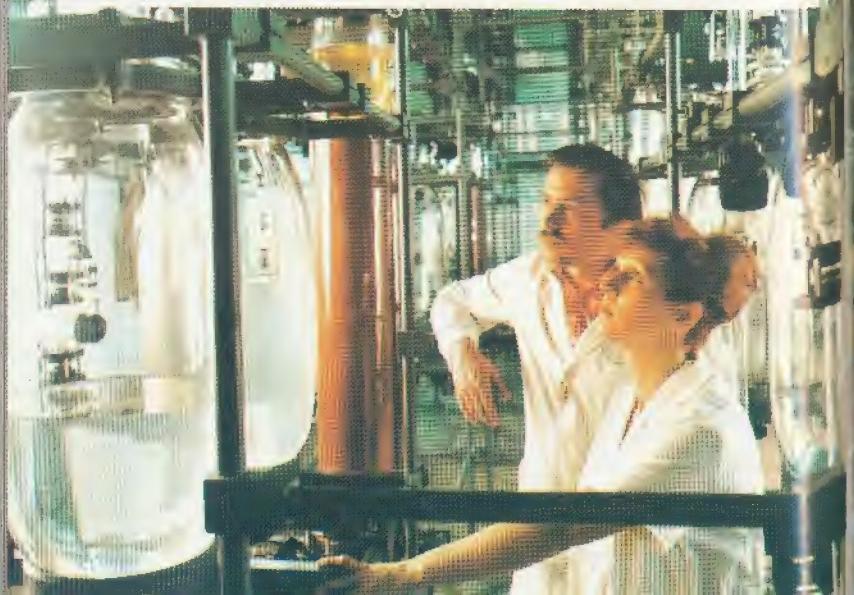
	1970	1980	1985
Milk per cow (3.5% fat, kg)	3,314	3,923	4,370
Eggs per hen	168	205	216
Honey per colony (kg)	9.9	9.3	13.8*
Wool per sheep (kg)	2.0	2.9	2.9

* 1984





Microelectronics ranks amongst the newest industries. Central Research and Technology Institute in Dresden. (above)
New production line for metals used in microelectronics. (below)



Stralsund shipyard specializes in the construction of fishing vessels.

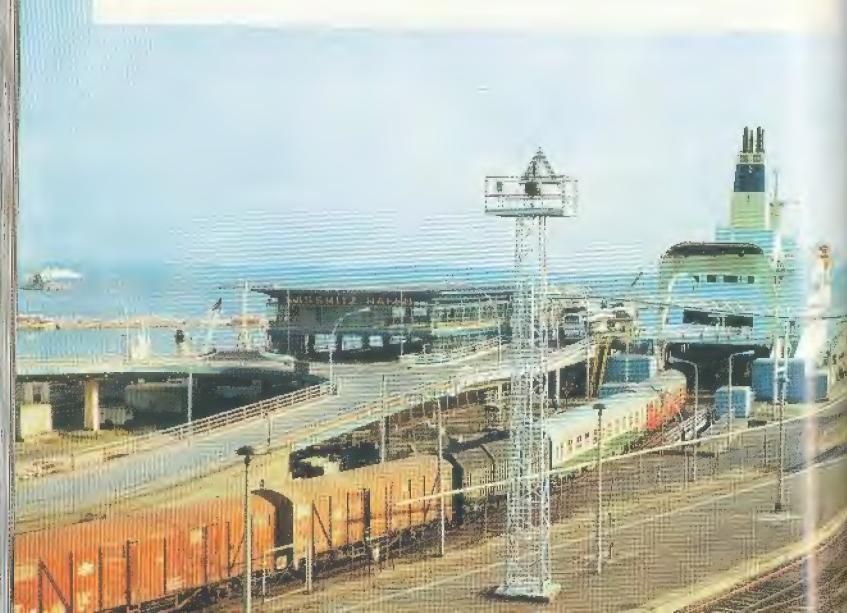
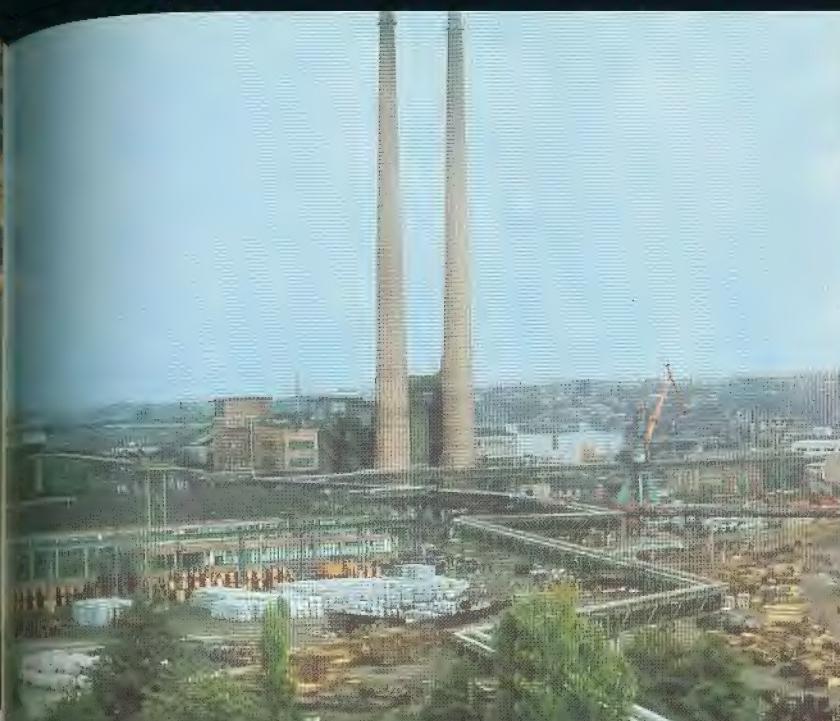


Electric locomotives being fitted out at Hennigsdorf.



Robots installed at valves and fittings works in Magdeburg. (above)

Sassnitz ferry terminal. (below)
Hettstedt rolling mill. (right)

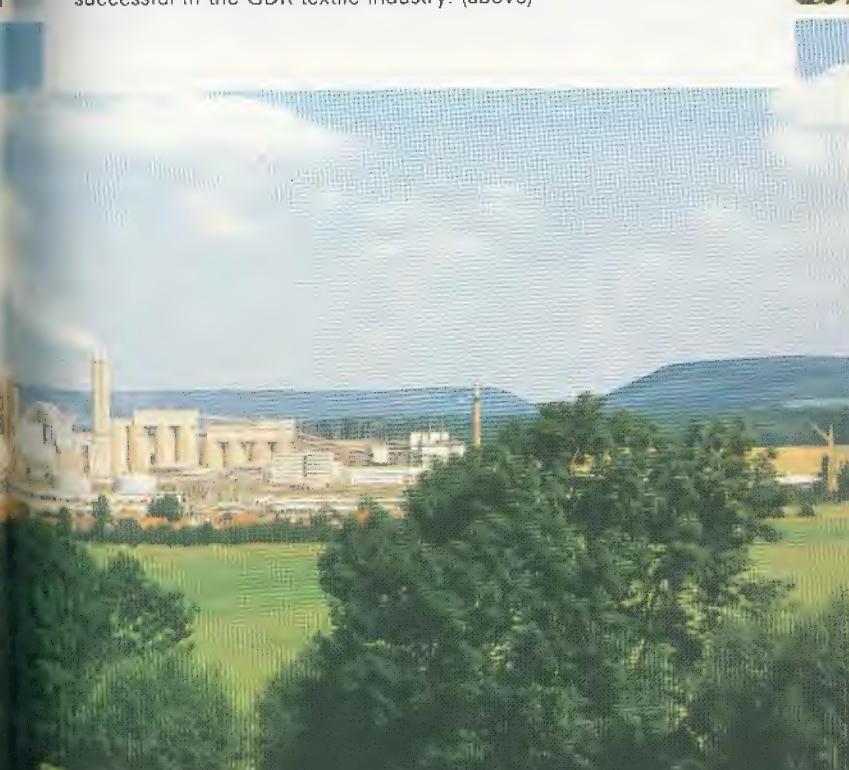
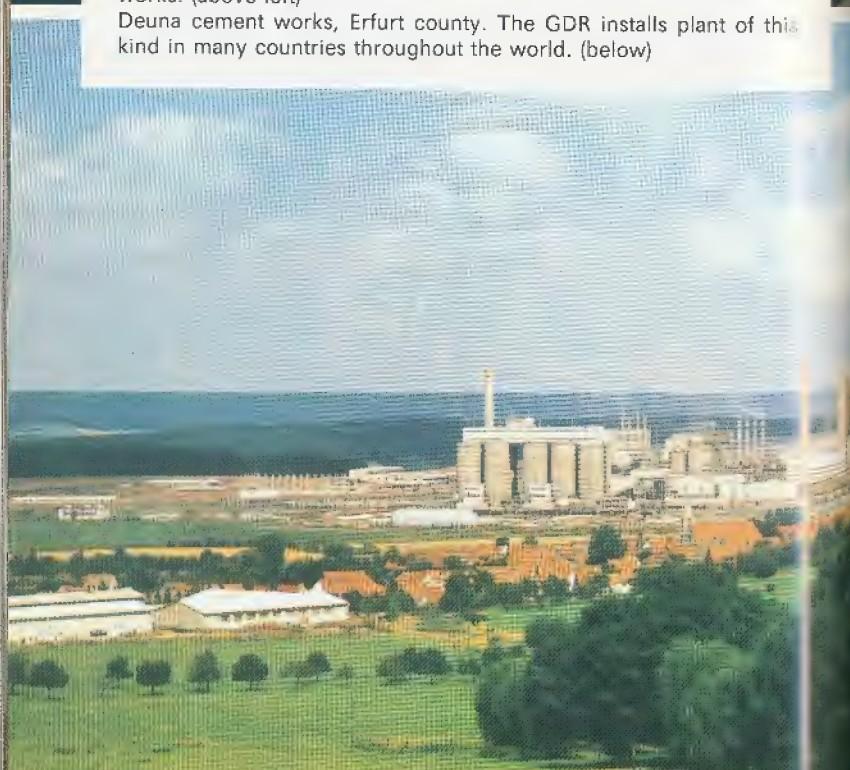




Comparing notes with Soviet partners at Sangerhausen potash works. (above left)
Deuna cement works, Erfurt county. The GDR installs plant of this kind in many countries throughout the world. (below)



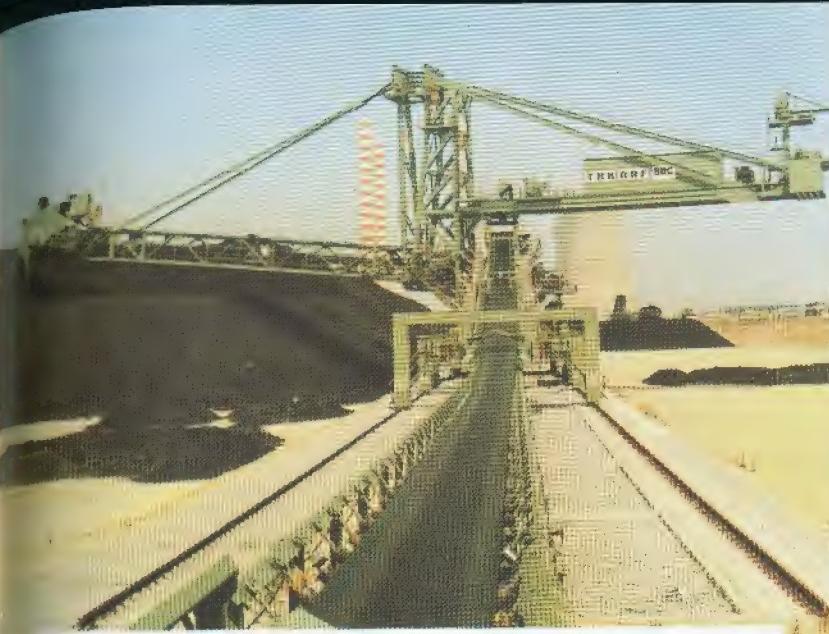
Highly productive plant from Czechoslovakia and Poland has proven successful in the GDR textile industry. (above)





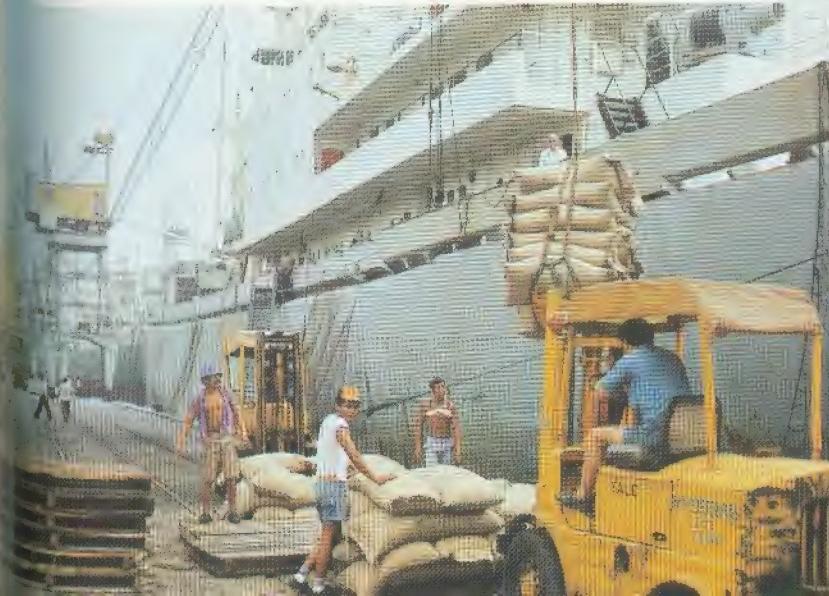
This lathe factory in Karl Marx Stadt has supplied over 7,000 machine tools to the Soviet Union.

View of the GDR section of the gas pipeline from Urengoi to Uzhgorod in the USSR.



Equipment produced by the TAKRAF combine in use at the Aghios Dimitrios lignite-fired power station in Greece.

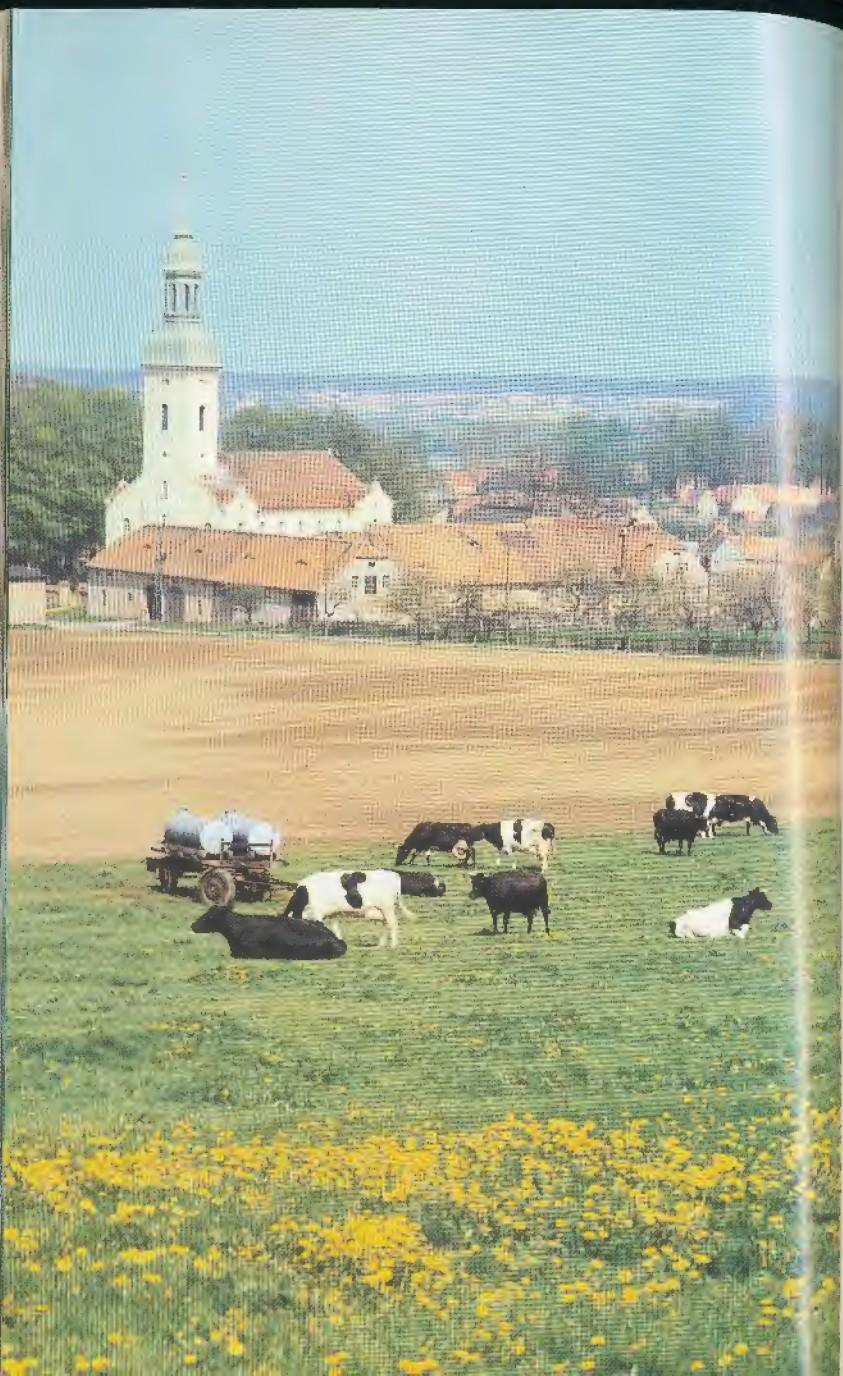
Ships of the GDR merchant fleet travel all the world's oceans. M.v. Eilenburg berthed in Santos, Brazil.



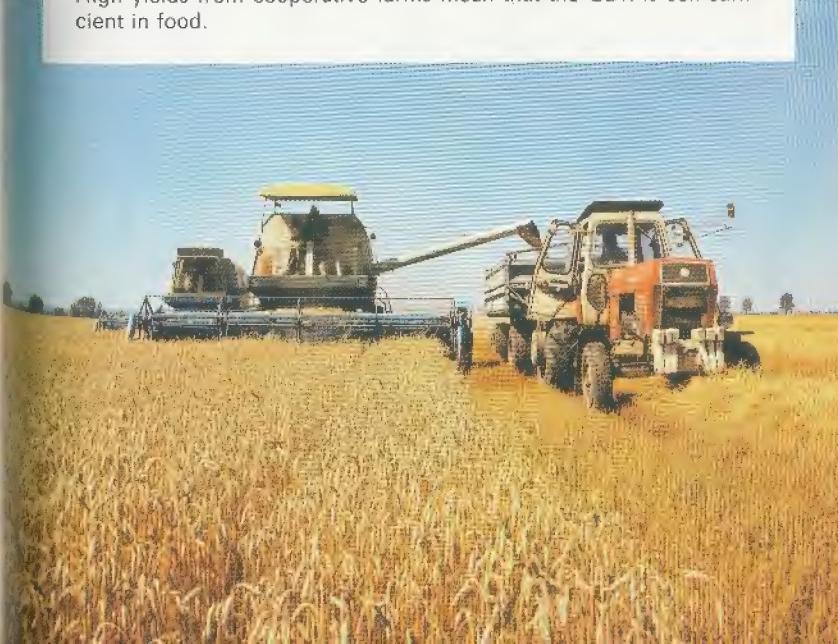


Young Africans receiving job training in the GDR. (above)
FDJ friendship brigade in Ethiopia. (below)
Representatives of commercial organizations from all over the world
meet every year at the Leipzig Trade Fair. (right)





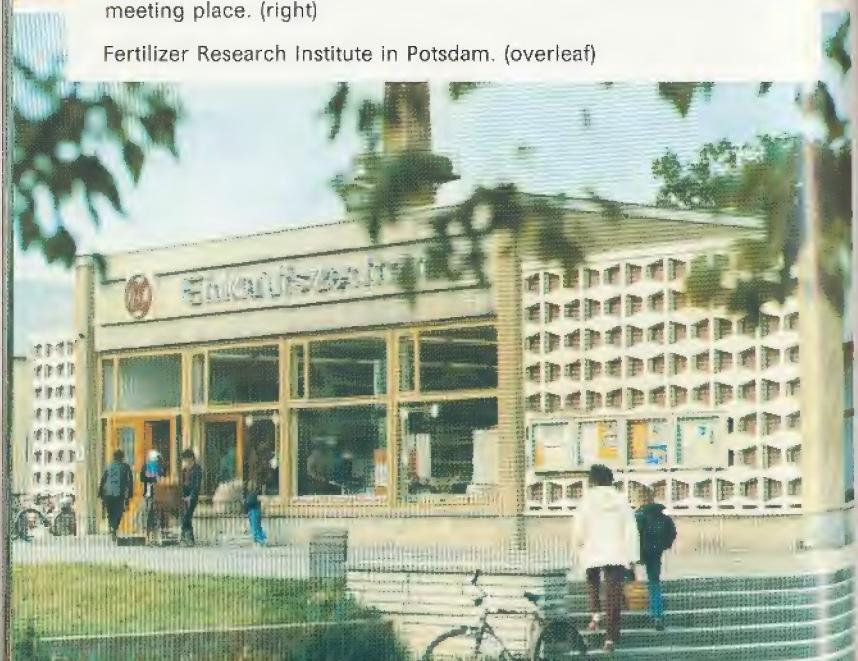
FDJ members working on a central youth project in the orchards around the river Havel.
High yields from cooperative farms mean that the GDR is self-sufficient in food.

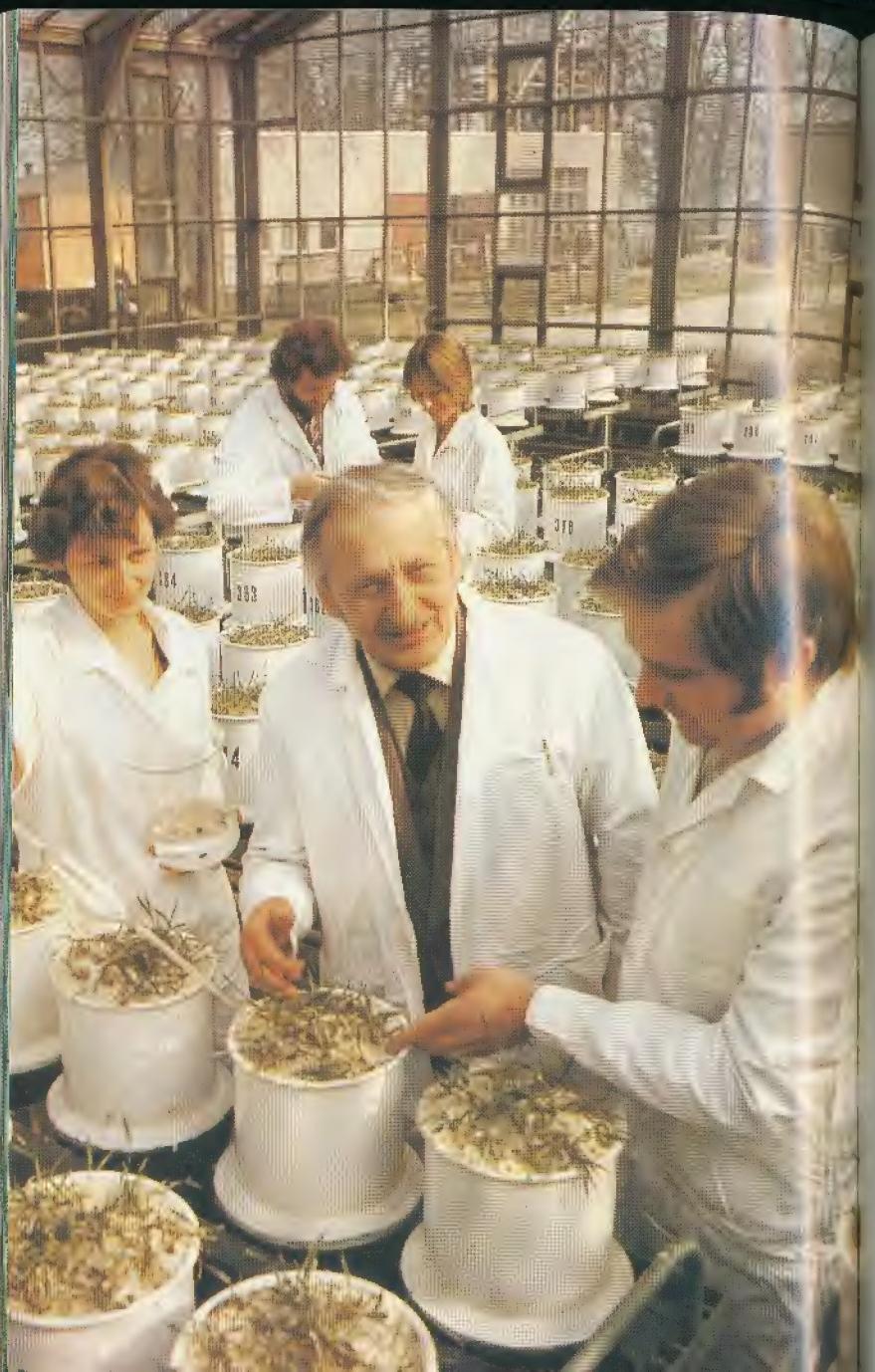




Shopping centre in Dedelow, Neubrandenburg county. (below)
The old linden tree in the village of Effelder, Thuringia, is a favourite meeting place. (right)

Fertilizer Research Institute in Potsdam. (overleaf)





Social policy

For one and a half decades now the material, intellectual and cultural standard of living of the GDR people has been undergoing a considerable improvement which is ensured by a high rate of development in production, science and technology.

The fact that the working people's achievements are making for an ever better life and growing well-being has come to be the hallmark of the GDR's internal development. The success of all measures taken in the economic, scientific and technological fields is judged by the benefit they bring for the general public.

The results achieved in the economic sector are being used to improve housing conditions, ensure health protection and medical care in the case of illness, as well as material security in old age. They help bring about improvements in the field of recreation and meet the need for meaningful leisure. Special attention is paid to the family, mother and child. Not least, improving economic performance makes it possible to widen the range and improve the quality of goods provided for the consumer market. The 11th Congress of the SED held in April 1986 decided to carry on with the policy of translating economic achievements into social benefit.

The housing problem: focus of social policies

Housing ranks prominently among the GDR people's basic needs. Every family should be provided with a heated, adequately sized flat equipped with the necessary sanitary facilities. An adequately sized home is generally conceived as one in which all family members have a room of their own. And this is exactly what the GDR's housing programme designed to be realised by 1990 is all about.

Solving the housing problem has been the main concern of social policies since 1971. Henceforth, housing conditions have been steadily improved. Every working day, some 1,000 families and single persons move into a new or modernized home. Considering that the GDR's total population is 16.7 million it is evident that hardly any other country is carrying out such an extensive housing programme.

The housing programme consists of housing construction, modernization and restoration.

New housing construction increases the existing housing stock which is particularly necessary in a number of major cities such as Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden.

The **modernization** of old homes involves the provision of a bathroom or shower and WC, the fitting of new stoves, the installation of gas or central heating, rewiring and the rehabilitation of basements, roofs and floors.

Restoration is carried out on a small scale, the aim being to recover housing stock which was not fit for inhabitation but is worth the effort of rehabilitation. The expenditure is justifiable if it does not exceed 60 per cent of the costs of constructing a new building. Restoration work is focussed on buildings which are on the list of protected monuments or are of cultural and historical value. A necessary supplement to the housing programme is extensive work to repair damage to residential buildings and maintain the housing stock.

Housing construction in the GDR has assumed a completely

new dimension over the years. This becomes evident if one draws a comparison between previous years. Back in the 1950s, at a time when the going was tough what with an industrial sector largely destroyed during the war and ill-proportioned due to the division of Germany, a total of 30,000 dwellings were built or rebuilt annually. This figure was gradually doubled during the following decade and rose to 76,000 by 1970, of which 65,800 were newly built homes. Some 813,000 dwellings were newly built or modernized between 1976 and 1980 and 990,000 between 1981-85.

All in all some 2.4 million homes were newly built or modernized between 1971-85. This has meant an improvement in housing conditions for 7.2 million people or 43 per cent of the GDR's population. The state made available over 260 billion marks for this purpose. For the period 1986-90 more than one million dwellings are due to be built or modernized. These figures express in the clearest terms that the policy of putting people's needs first is being consistently implemented.

As we forge ahead with the long-term housing programme a change has become discernible in the proportion of homes newly built compared with those modernized. In the 1970s the priority was to enlarge the housing stock by constructing new homes. Whereas, during this period, 75 per cent of all homes provided were newly built the 1981-85 five-year plan period saw this decrease to 60 per cent with the other 40 per cent being due to modernization. This trend will continue in the future. This is necessary because in many cities such as Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Halle and Karl-Marx-Stadt there are districts where the whole housing stock, which consists of tenement houses built for working-class families, dates back to the period before the First World War (1914-18) and in some cases to before the turn of the century.

Decent housing conditions find their reflection not only in the number of newly built and modernized homes but also in the great many public and community facilities necessary to make life in old and new residential areas as pleasant as possible.

New residential areas are emerging complete with shopping fa-

cilities, crèches and kindergartens, schools and gymnasiums, play and sports grounds, service centres, health centres, restaurants, swimming pools and old people's homes.

This demonstrates that housing construction in the GDR implies far more than the mere provision of adequate living space. The aim is to improve not just housing conditions but living conditions as well.

It goes without saying that implementing a housing programme of such proportions involves a multitude of problems that need to be solved. Old and new buildings need to be blended in with each other. Green spaces need to be preserved and new ones created. When construction work is being done in residential areas it is necessary to keep disruptive factors to a minimum be it noise, dust, stores of building materials or traffic diversions. At the same time construction work is carried out as economically and rationally as possible.

Industrial construction needs to be mastered more effectively in both architectural and technological terms even under the complex conditions arising from building in small inner-city areas. The aim has always been to find rational solutions which are acceptable from the point of view of urban development, especially by combining the construction of new buildings with modernization and preservation as well as the establishment of new urban districts. It required the efforts of the entire national economy to set up efficient construction combines specializing in civil and structural engineering and the modernization of dwellings. Pre-fab plant had to be expanded, new and more efficient operations for the manufacture of concrete slabs had to be set up, their production being focussed on both large segments for blocks of new houses as well as smaller ones to be used for various purposes in inner-city construction.

The construction of owner-occupied houses is typical in rural areas. It is in this way that the wish of many people for a house and garden of their own is met. Moreover, this form of construction is welcome to the state, for it relieves to a certain de-

gree the burden on nationally owned housing construction combines. Those who build a house of their own do a lot of the work involved themselves. They may avail themselves of the construction equipment at their cooperative farm and receive the help of their work mates. These houses may be built either on private estates or on land leased by the town or village for a period of 99 years. To cover the cost of construction state credits are available at favourable interest rates to be paid back on a long-term basis. The monthly sum to be paid for the lease of the land, for interest and for credit repayments is generally about the same as that for housing rent. At present 12,000 owner-occupied houses are built a year, with 89,078 being built between 1981 and 1985.

The most important consideration in tackling the housing problem is not money but rather the social aspect. There is no chance to speculate on the housing market in the GDR, the homes available being allocated under public control and in line with certain criteria.

Two thirds of all new homes have been given to workers' families; every fourth newly built home was allocated to a young married couple with every tenth going to a family with four and more children.

An aspect of the housing construction programme which is of particular social relevance are the low rents which have been kept stable ever since the GDR was founded. Rent accounts for less than three per cent of the family income in the households of production and office workers.

Certain differences in rents are due to the location of homes (rents for dwellings in smaller towns being somewhat lower than in big cities) and differences in the provision of mod cons (central, gas and stove heating, hot water). The rent for one square metre of living space in a newly built home costs between 0.80 and 1.25 marks, which is about one third of the actual sum necessary for maintenance. Two thirds of the costs of repairs, maintenance and administration are paid from the public purse.

Jobs for everyone

The basis of a secure and meaningful life is a guaranteed and worthwhile job. The right to work is enshrined in the Constitution of the GDR. It entails job security, the right to equal pay for equal work, as well as full protection against unfair dismissal. It guarantees the working people economic security in the event of illness and disability or in old age, at the same time promoting their all-round involvement in planning and administrative affairs at their firm.

For new scientific and technological findings to have the quickest possible economic effect it is necessary to carry out extensive rationalization measures at the nationally owned enterprises. This requires enterprises to release workers for other parts of the economy. The people in question will not be unemployed but rather given a different job in their own enterprise or, alternatively, at a completely different one. This change of job and the subsequent necessary retraining does not bring any financial or other social disadvantages with it for the working people. Rationalization, robots and computers are no job killers in this case.

Released manpower is urgently needed especially in the service sector, in the field of health care and social welfare, in the trade sector and in other spheres such as microelectronics, the manufacture of rationalization equipment and consumer goods production. Rationalization does not have an adverse effect on working conditions but rather goes hand in hand with their systematic improvement. In 1985 a total of more than 240,000 workplaces were redesigned in line with the latest scientific findings. Between 1985 and 1990, another 1.2 to 1.3 million workplaces will be improved in terms of the contents and conditions of work. Undue strain at work will be eliminated for 440,000 to 450,000 employees. Enterprise trade union committees make their impact felt when it comes to the settlement of all social and labour issues involved with socialist rationalization.

For all the 2.9 million young people between the ages of 14 and

25 it is a matter of course to be trained for a job and receive a contract of employment after their apprenticeship has come to an end. They then have 300 trades to choose from, which offers them an opportunity to attune their personal wishes to the needs of society.

In similar fashion, those who leave school with the Abitur after completing grade 12 are certain of being admitted to a course of higher education. Having completed their studies successfully all of them get employment in line with their qualification. The right to work, to develop one's personality and to participate in social affairs applies without exception.

Promotion of families and working women

The state bestows extensive care upon working women and families. Over 90 per cent of women of working age have a job. Their qualification receives special attention. There exist women's promotion schemes at all enterprises. Women form the bulk of the workforce in the trade, health and service sectors, in kindergartens and crèches, and in the education system. As far as material production is concerned the women working there (40 per cent of the total workforce) cope perfectly well with the transition from traditional manufacturing techniques to state-of-the-art technology. In the GDR there is absolute protection against dismissal during pregnancy.

Women are granted 26 weeks' maternity leave while receiving their full net average wage. In connection with childbirth women receive an allowance to the tune of 1,000 marks. When the first child is born working women are entitled to statutory paid leave for up to one year to look after their infant at home. For the third and every further child they are granted child-care leave of up to 18 months. That means full exemption from work with 70 to 90 per cent of their net earnings. Their job is reserved for them whatever. Mothers working a full working day who have two or more children up to the age of 16 work just 40 hours a week without any wage

reductions. All working mothers with two children are able to take paid leave to care for their sick children.

The basic holiday for mothers working full time with several children is between 20 and 23 working days. If they work in shifts they receive up to 10 additional days.

Women working full-time with a household of their own are granted one paid day off per month to do work around the house, providing they are either married, have children younger than 18 living in their household or have dependents in need of attention.

Of no little importance in ensuring women the opportunity to take advantage of their right to work is the fact that all children between the ages of three and six can be provided with a place in a kindergarten and that for 73 per cent of all children up to the age of three a place in a crèche is available. All expenses involved are paid by the state, except for a token financial contribution parents have to pay for food.

The encouragement given to families is a major social aspect serving the interests of working women. Young married couples (age limit 30 years) are granted interest-free loans to the tune of 7,000 marks, which are repayable within eleven years. When the first child is born, 1,000 marks are waived, another 1,500 marks on the birth of the second and a further 2,500 marks upon the birth of the third child.

Families with severely handicapped children are given special assistance in addition to medical care. The mothers of such children are able to work reduced hours while being paid their full wages; they receive extra holidays and a financial allowance in the case of the child falling ill.

Families with three or more children are given preferential treatment by allocating them larger homes with all the mod cons. Between 1976 and 1985 70,000 large families moved into a newly built flat or an owner-occupied house. In addition, such families receive rent allowances, they can take advantage of free laundering services and state allowances for the purchase of clothes and fur-

niture, as well as package tours to holiday resorts free of charge or at reduced prices. They are sent on courses of spa treatment, pay lower prices for tickets at all cultural facilities and receive school meals and milk free of charge.

As of 1 May 1987, family allowances will be increased substantially: for the first child they will be raised from 20 marks to 50 marks per month, for the second child from 20 to 100 marks, and for the third and all further children from 100 to 150 marks.

Increasing income— greater purchasing power

Raising people's monetary income is and will continue to be the main way of improving the material standard of living. The net monetary income of the GDR people grows by four per cent every year, which is mainly due to pay rises. Wages and salaries have increased by 78 per cent between 1970 and 1985, and will keep growing by an average of four per cent every year until 1990.

Pay rises are performance-based and depend first and foremost on rises in productivity (productivity-based wages). Rises in productivity which are brought about through the introduction of new scientific and technological findings lead to wage increases if the worker can master these processes by drawing on his qualification and work experiences. This is usually possible because skilled workers are highly trained and have the chance to undergo further training.

The income earned by supervisors, engineers and other managerial personnel partially depends on the performances achieved in their sphere of competence. Those involved in R & D and designing receive allowances in addition to their salary if they solve a given task within a certain time. Moreover, all working people may get performance-based bonuses. All these stipulations are laid down in union agreements or skeleton union agreements.

People's income includes apart from the earned income (or pensions and students' grants) a wide range of benefits which the state

offers to all citizens and which raise their real income substantially. For example:

Prices: Staple goods account for some 80 per cent of the retail trade turnover in the GDR. Prices for these goods have been pegged for years on end. As far as the other 20 per cent are concerned prices are determined by demand and supply.

Everyday staple goods such as bread, meat, butter, milk, eggs, potatoes, fruit and vegetables are subsidized by the state. The same goes for fares on public transport as well as electricity, gas and coal for households. A total of 46.2 billion marks have been earmarked for the maintenance of low prices and fares from the 1986 state budget. For example, the price of a bus or tram ticket has not changed since the GDR came into existence, costing 20 pfennigs (0.20 marks) in the big cities. Train fares for journeys within the country have also remained unchanged. The normal fare per kilometre on passenger trains is 11.6 pfennigs in the first class, and 8 pfennigs in the tourist class.

When it comes to attractive, high-quality durables that are newcomers on the market, for example, stereo cassette recorders, colour TV sets, household chemical goods, cosmetics and fashionable clothes, their prices are calculated along new lines, in accordance with their improved quality. Prices are fixed by the Price Board of the GDR Council of Ministers. One of the aims of economic policy is to widen the range of high-quality goods and to ensure a good and stable supply of staple goods.

The state ploughs substantial resources into school education, vocational training and adult education. The expenditure arising for the family from the education and training of its children is low, with school education, vocational training and higher education being free of charge.

Students in grades 11 and 12 receive a monthly grant of 110 and 150 marks respectively.

All full-time students receive a grant composed of a uniform basic grant of 200 marks a month plus various kinds of benefits paid according to achievement or social need. Female students, like all

other women, are entitled to paid child-care leave after the birth of their baby and need not give up their studies.

Lunch at the refectory costs between 60 pfennigs and one mark. Entrance to cultural facilities is reduced by 50 per cent and libraries, sports facilities etc. are free of charge. A place at a students' hostel costs 10 marks per month.

As far as apprentices are concerned, all issues pertaining to labour law are laid down in the GDR's Labour Code. Half a year before the end of training firms conclude contracts of employment with their trainees. Depending on the branch of the economy, all apprentices are paid a monthly sum ranging from 120 marks during the first to 220 marks during the last six months of training. Apprentices, like all working people, are subject to social insurance cover. They are entitled to comprehensive medical care. They are granted 24 working days' basic holidays. At the apprentices' hostel they are charged 1.10 marks per day for food and accommodation. Apprentices are granted a 75 per cent reduction on public transport.

A sense of belonging in old age

Elderly people in particular appreciate the climate of security prevailing in the GDR. They are taken care of by their families, the state and their former firms who include them in their social activities and see to their well-being. Every fifth or sixth GDR citizen is of pensionable age.

All working people who pay social insurance contributions of up to 60 marks monthly are entitled to free medical care and at the same time an old-age pension.

Pensions have been raised on five occasions since 1970, but still pensioners belong to the low-income group. Statutory minimum pensions which are paid to all former working people and social insurance pensions for those who never had a contract of employment make sure that everyone can afford enough to eat, buy clothing and pay the rent, electricity etc.

The average old-age pension which production and office workers are entitled to from social insurance and voluntary supplementary insurance presently amounts to 471 marks.

Pensioners do not pay any taxes, no health insurance contributions, no radio and TV fees. They can have a low-priced hot lunch at the facilities of the Volkssolidarität, a senior citizens' organization. Permanent home-helps assist elderly people to keep their own household in order.

At present, over 167,000 places are available in old people's and nursing homes. However, this is not yet enough to meet the demand. That is why an additional 3,000 to 4,000 places are created every year, most of them in double-bed rooms. The pensioners pay only about 30 per cent of the current average pension for full board and lodging as well as care.

These major sociopolitical achievements have come to be part and parcel of the GDR people's quality of life. Everybody knows that good work pays for each individual and that economic achievements are translated into benefits for the people. This in turn becomes a strong motivating force for all working people.

Social policy

Housing construction



Dwellings modernized

	1976–1980	1981–1985
1971–1975	253,740	375,714
209,080		

Dwellings built

	1976–1980	1981–1985
1971–1975	559,387	613,166
399,586		

Dwellings completed

1971–1985	1986–1990 (projected)
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2.4 million 1 million

Average living space per newly built dwelling 1970 – 56 square metres; since 1981 – 63 square metres

Housing conditions improved for 7.2 million people between 1971 and 1985.

Construction of owner-occupied houses:

More than 161,000 owner-occupied houses were built in the GDR between 1971 and 1985, of which some 68 per cent are inhabited by workers' families and families of cooperative farmers. Large families occupy 18 per cent of these homes and young married couples some 25 per cent. The construction of owner-occupied homes accounts for an average 12 per cent of housing construction at large.

- Between 1981 and 1985 a total of 1,183,000 work stations have been redesigned in line with the principles of scientific labour organization. During that period physical strains and health hazards were eliminated or reduced for some 341,700 employees.

Care for the elderly

- A total of 2.8 million GDR people, i.e. nearly 17 per cent of the population, are of pensionable age.
- Between 1971 and 1985 pensions have been increased on five occasions.
- The annual sum earmarked for pensions rose from 9.7 billion marks in 1970 to 17.4 billion marks in 1985.
- More than 78,000 elderly people, that is five times as many as in 1971, were taken care of by home-helps in 1985. An annual 120 million marks are allocated for this purpose from the public purse.
- The Volkssolidarität provides a hot lunch every day for more than 195,000 senior citizens; over 58,000 seniors in need of attention are catered for by meals on wheels.
- Members of the Volkssolidarität work a total of some 29 million hours a year as part of the good-neighbour scheme.

Care for the family

- Between 1972 and 1985 1.1 million interest-free loans with a total volume of 6.5 billion marks were granted to young married couples. Of these 1.7 billion marks were waived on childbirth.
- Some 2.5 million hot lunches are provided daily at kindergartens and schools. A school meal costs 55 pfennigs.
- Since July 1985 all children and youths, be they pupils at secondary school, apprentices or students, pay 50 per cent of the normal fare on inland railways; children up to the age of six travel free of charge.

Crèches

- Some 345,200 girls and boys, which is about 75 per cent of the children up to three, are currently being looked after in crèches.
- There are more than 7,400 crèches in the GDR.
- Parents pay up to 1.40 marks per day and 22 to 25 marks per month.
- The state provides a monthly sum of 350 marks for every crèche place.

Kindergartens

All children whose parents so wish may attend a kindergarten. Some one million children, i.e. 93 per cent, spend their day in a kindergarten, being looked after by more than 85,000 kindergarten teachers or assistants.

- A total of 866,252 places in kindergartens were available in 1985.
- More than 100,000 places in kindergartens were created between 1980 and 1985.
- Parents pay 35 pfennigs a day for a child's lunch.

Average monthly net income of a production or office worker's household (in marks)

1970	1980	1985
less than 1,200	1,200 to 1,600	1,600 and more

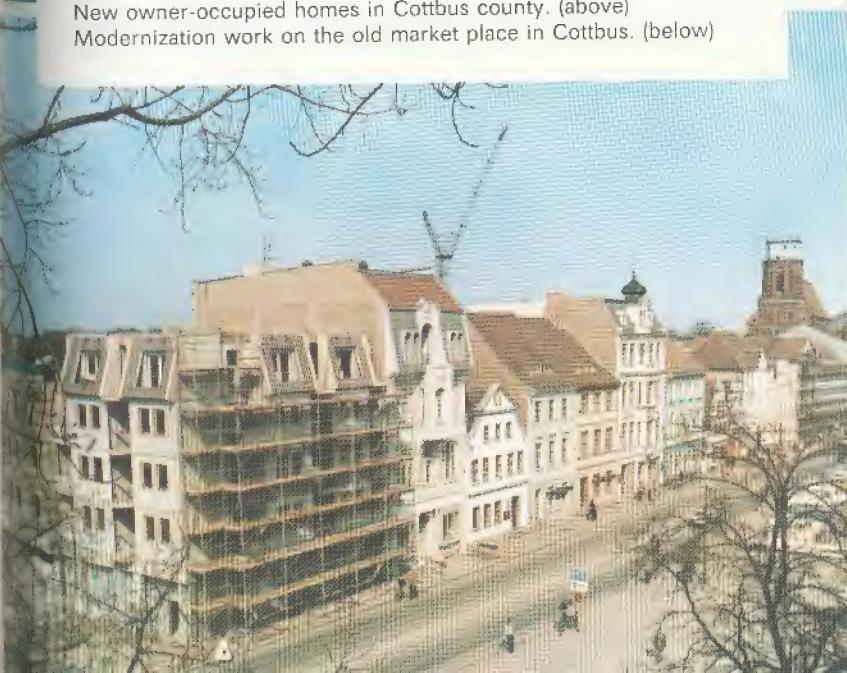
- Real income per capita doubled between 1970 and 1985.
- Net monetary income per capita rose by 83 per cent during the same period.
- Stable consumer prices for the basic commodities, rents, fares and service charges are essential to the growth of real income. For more than

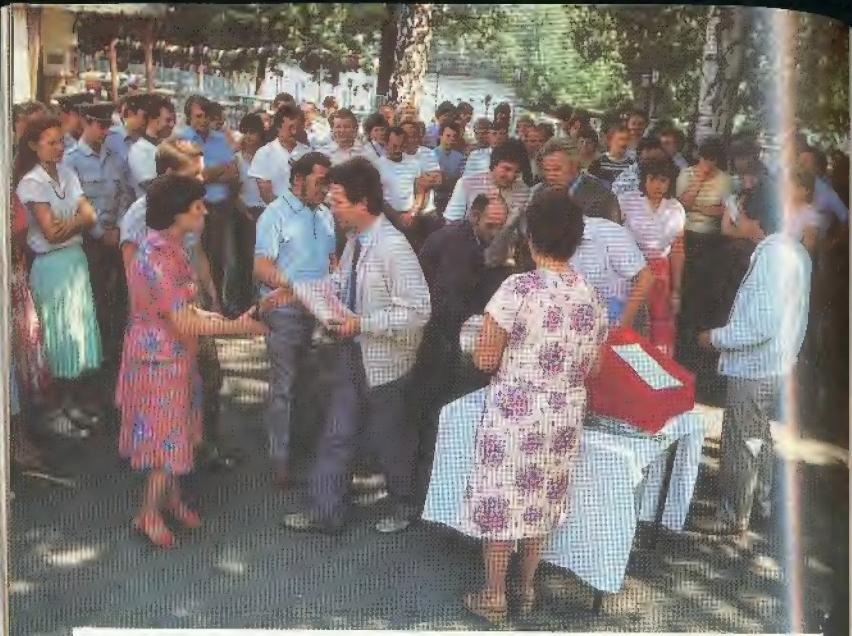
25 years now people have been paying the same prices for meat, butter, sausage, milk, bread and other basic foodstuffs as well as for heating and electricity, transport services and a great many consumer durables. In 1985, purchases of foodstuffs to the tune of 100 marks were subsidized by an additional 78 marks from the public purse.





The housing question is to be solved as a problem of social relevance by 1990.
New owner-occupied homes in Cottbus county. (above)
Modernization work on the old market place in Cottbus. (below)





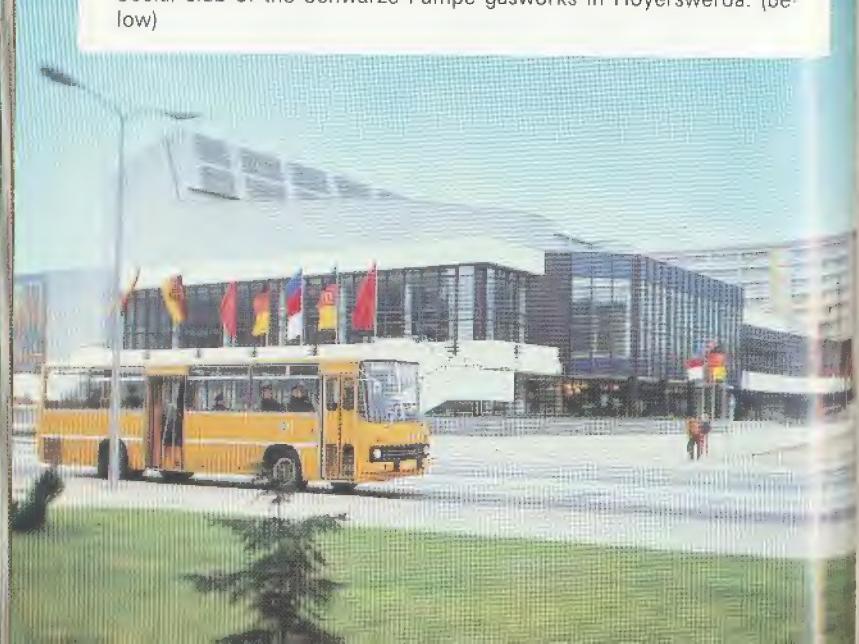
In their spare time, work teams often meet together with their entire families. (above)

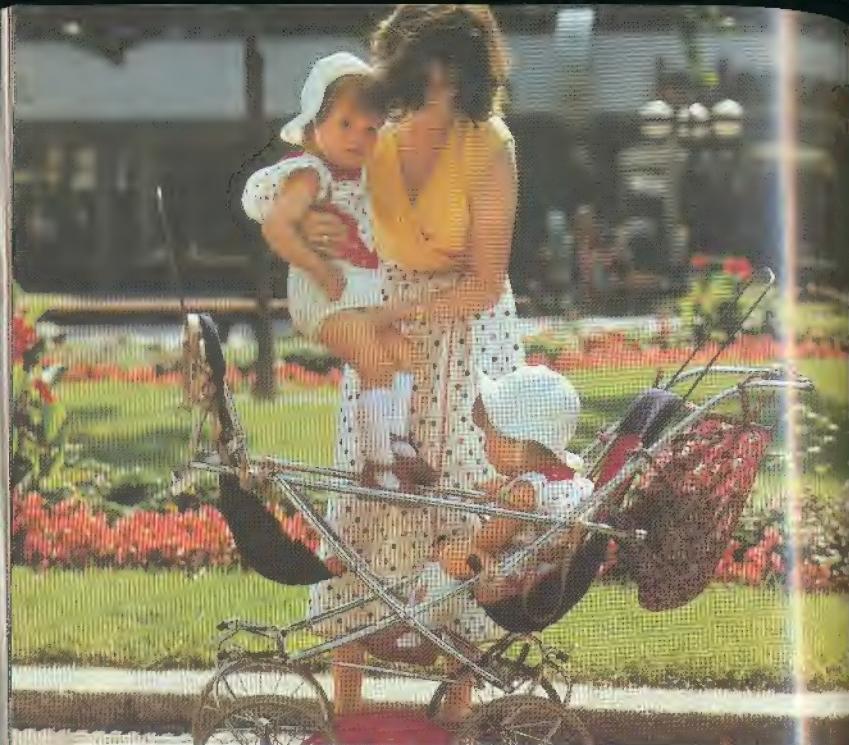
Social club of the Schwarze Pumpe gasworks in Hoyerswerda. (below)



Youth fashion department in a Berlin department store.

A meal at the works canteen, here at the Oberspree cable works in Berlin, costs between 0.70 and 2.00 marks.





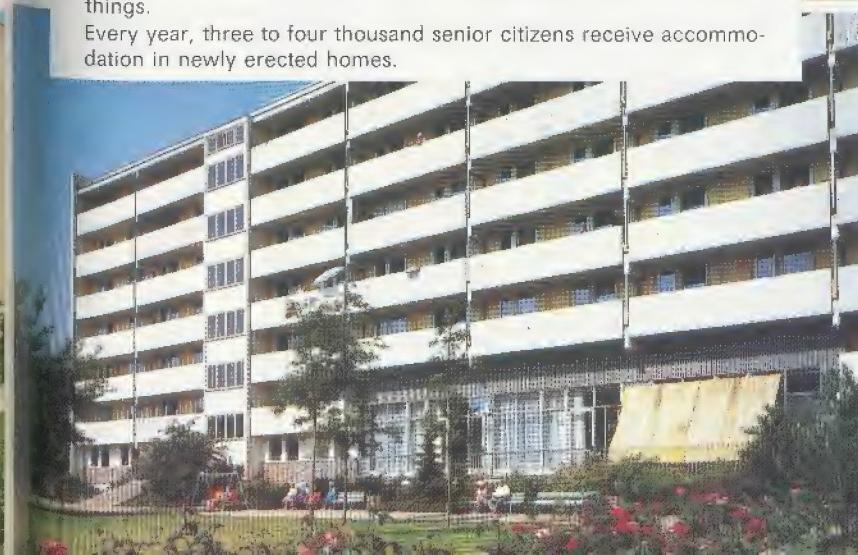
There are special government provisions to take care of mothers and children.

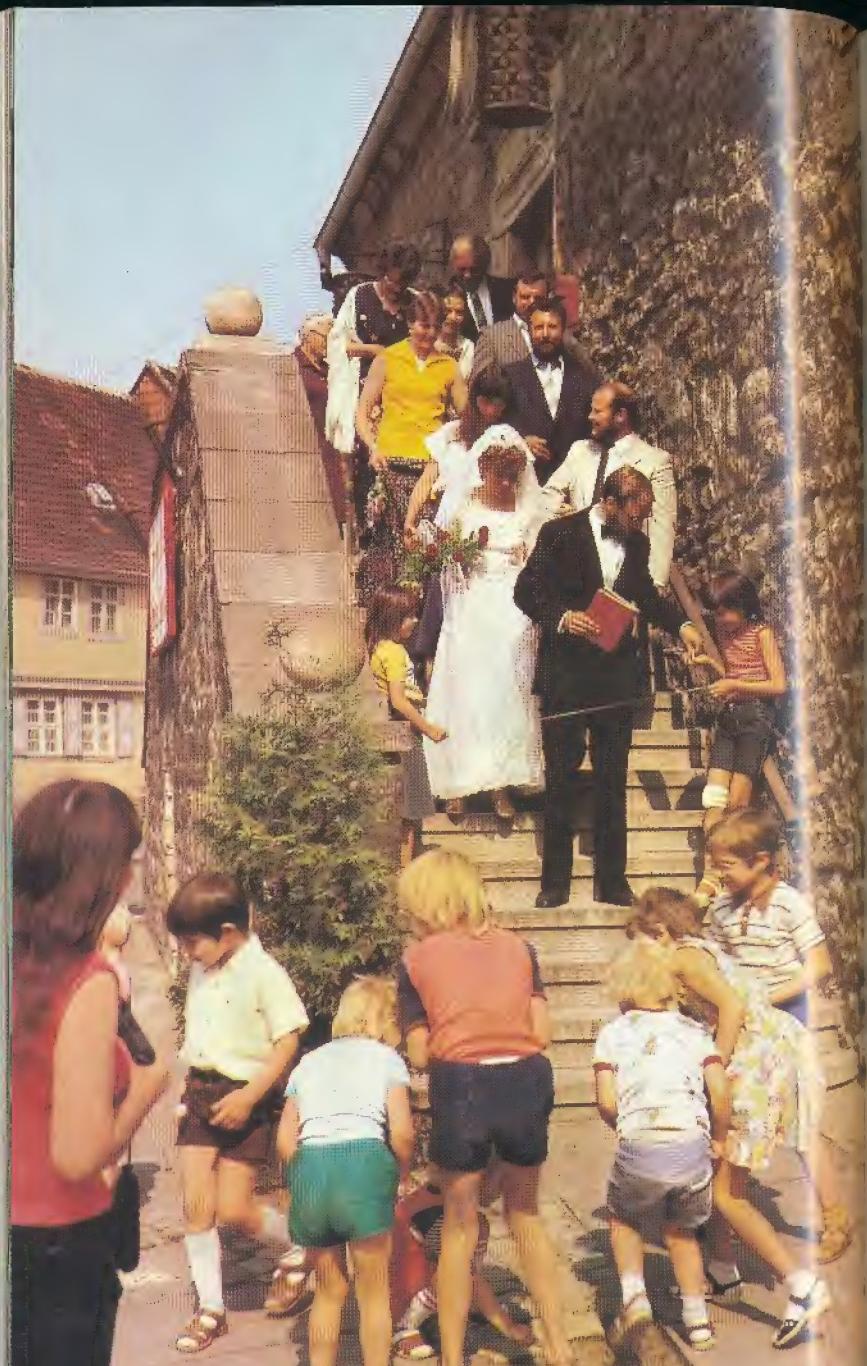
Children's playgrounds form an integral part of new housing estates.



An organization known as **Volkssolidarität** works actively with senior citizens, organizing entertainment and pastimes among many other things.

Every year, three to four thousand senior citizens receive accommodation in newly erected homes.





Education

The GDR has an integrated socialist education system which is state-run, secular in nature and open to all free of charge. Education and training are provided on a scientific basis and in complete harmony with our social objectives and the people's interests. The close cooperation between the educational facilities on the one hand and the parents, the youth organization, enterprises and institutions and the up-and-coming generation on the other is typical. Our educational system provides all boys and girls in town and country as well as the children of the Sorbs, a national minority living in the GDR, with equal educational opportunities. There are special schools and job training facilities where children and young people with physical or mental handicaps are prepared for life and work according to the severity of their disablement.

Our education system has a fully integrated structure, thus allowing everyone to proceed smoothly from one stage to the next. Attendance is free of charge and guaranteed by providing allowances, apprentice pay, grants, free teaching aids and special socio-political measures for pupils, apprentices and students as well as for children from large families.

The fundamental components of the integrated socialist education system are pre-school facilities, the ten-year general polytechnical school, vocational training, advanced level education, engineering and technical schools, universities and colleges and adult education schemes.

Pre-school education

Pre-school education facilities comprise crèches for children up to three years old and kindergartens for children from three to six when they start school. The pre-school facilities bear a great responsibility for the children's all-round education and development. They should be an enjoyable experience. It is their task to ensure the harmonious physical and mental development of their charges, which includes to teach them to respect their parents and the achievements of the working people and to stimulate such habits and traits of character as readiness to help, modesty, love of truth and order as well as to motivate and enable the children to become useful members of their group.

Special emphasis is placed on maintaining the children's physical well-being and a healthy way of life. To this end the daily and weekly schedule in crèches and kindergartens must be conducive to the children's health and development including outdoor sports and games. In 1985 a new education programme for kindergartens was introduced which corresponds to advanced practical experiences as well as new social requirements and scientific findings.

Crèche and kindergarten attendance is free of charge. All pre-school facilities are heavily subsidized by the state. Pre-school establishments maintain close contacts with the parents. In the kindergartens there exist elected parents' representatives which help to stimulate this trusting cooperation. The guiding principle in this respect is that the development of pre-school children is most favourably influenced if they are educated both within the family and in the kindergarten.

Kindergarten teachers are trained in three-year training courses at one of the country's 19 teacher training colleges after completion of their ten-year secondary education.

The ten-year general polytechnical school

Attendance at the ten-year general polytechnical school is compulsory. This school provides children with a sound general scientific education and lays the foundation for the development of all-round personalities and for the acquisition of higher standards of education. A major feature of the ten-year school is its polytechnical character which covers all aspects of the education process. It is marked by a high level of general scientific education, polytechnical education as an integrated part, indivisibility of school and life and of theory and practice. Expanding the school's polytechnical nature presupposes the striving for a high degree of knowledge in all subjects, practice-oriented lessons and the development of the children's creative skills, character traits and behaviour. Within educational work special importance is attached to international solidarity and peace education.

In the ten-year general polytechnical school teaching is based on standard compulsory curricula with the educational content being constantly developed. Between 1980 and 1985 45 new or revised curricula and the respective textbooks were introduced. Plans are for a completely new set of curricula by the end of the eighties. This will serve to ensure that educational standards meet the increased demands resulting from social, scientific and technological development.

The content of the individual subjects as stipulated in state curricula serves all-round education and development.

Ten-year schooling guarantees an integrated process of training and education from the first to the tenth grade. It is subdivided into three levels: the lower level comprising grades 1 to 3, the intermediate level with grades 4 to 6 and the upper level with grades 7 to 10.

In the lower grades, pupils are taught basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. They take part in sports and are taught an understanding of natural and social phenomena. 83 per cent of all pupils in grades 1 to 4 spend the whole day at school, attending

the after-school centre in the afternoon when lessons are over. There they do their homework, handicrafts, play games and sports, all under qualified supervision.

In the intermediate grades, pupils are introduced to the natural and social sciences as well as foreign languages, the number of lessons being gradually increased in the upper grades. They are familiarised with the fundamental laws and essential phenomena of society, the sciences, art, culture, economy and technology. They learn different approaches to work which help them to widen, consolidate and apply their knowledge and skills off their own back.

In grade 5 Russian, the first foreign language, is introduced for all and in grade 7 a second foreign language (English, French, at some schools also Spanish, Czech or Polish) is taught on an optional basis. In grades 1 to 6 there are specific subjects for polytechnical education (industrial arts and gardening).

In the upper grades the subjects "technical drawing" and "introduction to socialist production" are introduced. From the 7th grade onwards, pupils work one day per week in a nationally-owned enterprise. Socialist enterprises have become educational institutions where pupils are trained in productive activities and experience in practice what high value attaches to reliable and exact work and high performance. This helps them to establish varied contacts with the workforce and the work and to gain new knowledge.

Thus, in more than 5,000 enterprises workers and cooperative farmers have a direct influence on the education of the younger generation. In their productive work the one million pupils or so of grades 7 to 10 are instructed and supervised by some 35,000 skilled workers, teachers and engineering teachers. The "productive work" lessons are designed to prepare youngsters for professional life. They are an integral part of general education but do not constitute vocational training.

There exist some special classes and schools for those pupils who are particularly gifted or have a special interest in a certain

field. In addition to the regular curriculum more challenging and demanding lessons are given in particular subjects such as mathematics, the natural sciences, foreign languages, the fine arts or sports. In addition, there are a range of optional subjects with fixed syllabuses which are taught from the 7th grade onwards and which extend and deepen the knowledge of the pupils.

The GDR's 5,800 schools have standardized teaching aids and materials which correspond to the curricula and textbooks. At the 500 or so special schools for physically and mentally handicapped children and young people teaching materials are available which are especially developed for or adapted to the special nature of these schools or the particular kind of handicap. The stock of teaching materials is being constantly expanded and updated. In 1985 a pocket calculator was introduced which had been especially developed for the ten-year school.

Teacher training

Teachers who teach the lower grades, i.e. grades 1 to 4, study German and mathematics plus a subject of their own choice at a teacher-training institute for a period of four years. To all intents and purposes these are technical colleges and admission to them is conditional upon successful completion of the 10th grade.

All teachers aiming to teach grades 5 to 10 of the general school, grades 11 and 12 of the advanced secondary school or at vocational schools attend, after having obtained the Abitur, a university, teacher training college, a college of technology or a college of music. These courses last five years and finish with the acquisition of teaching qualifications for two subjects in grades 5 to 12.

Teachers are all trained according to the same principles. They study the subjects they intend to teach in future, plus the educational theory, psychology and methodology of these subjects. Like all other students they study Marxism-Leninism as part of a basic course in social sciences and improve their general education.

Theory and practice are closely combined during the study

course. The prospective teachers undergo several periods of practical training which place increasing demands on them as regards situations which they may be confronted with. Immediately after graduating from the college the young teachers receive employment contracts. Graduated teachers regard it as a must of their profession to constantly upgrade their qualification. In-service training courses are held during the winter and summer vacations on a compulsory basis.

School-parents-youth organization

The Free German Youth organization and the Ernst Thälmann Pioneer organization as independent and integrated political mass organizations have a decisive influence on the education process.

The Ernst Thälmann Pioneer organization is for the 6 to 14-year olds and all pupils who so wish may join this organization. It was founded in 1948 and in 1952 it was given the name Ernst Thälmann, a staunch communist and leader of the German working class who was murdered by the Nazis. Most of the pupils in grades 1 to 7 are members of the GDR's integrated children's organization. In grades 1 to 3 they are called Young Pioneers, in grades 4 to 7 Thälmann Pioneers. Pioneer groups are organized on the basis of classes and at this level as well as at school level they elect their committees. A symbol of membership in the Pioneer organization is a blue scarf for Young Pioneers and a red one for Thälmann Pioneers.

All young people who have reached the age of 14 can become members of the Free German Youth organization (FDJ). At the schools and vocational training establishments there exist FDJ groups organized on the basis of classes, each of them having an elected committee and a secretary. The highest FDJ body at a school is its branch committee.

The children's and youth organization helps to direct the pupils' activities at socially important objectives. It organizes events in which all children and young people can participate. At schools

and enterprises it promotes a wide range of activities and ideas in order to support the process of learning, encourage socially useful work, promote education for peace and the idea of international solidarity and stimulate meaningful pastimes.

The schools, the children and youth organizations and parents cooperate closely. Every school has a parent-teacher association and every class its own parents' group. These parental representations exercise their right to participation in decision-making at school in numerous, constructive ways. They help parents to live up to their growing responsibilities in bringing up and educating their children, to make the right decisions and resolve difficulties. The parent-teacher associations are elected every two years and the parents' groups at the beginning of every school year. 614,000 parents are active in these bodies, that is one in four parents with children of school-age. Members of the parent-teacher association and the chairman of the parents' group can be excused from work on a short-term basis in connection with specific duties related to their function.

Vocational training

After completing the ten years' general schooling all young people take up an apprenticeship or attend a higher education institution. Career guidance starts at school. All school-leavers are guaranteed an apprenticeship or a place at a university or college as well as a secure job after completion of their training.

Vocational training is free of charge and based on indentures. This is a special type of employment contract which is concluded between the apprentice and his or her parents on the one side and the enterprise on the other and includes all their rights and duties for the duration of the apprenticeship.

After completion of ten-year schooling vocational training is provided in two-year courses leading to a skilled worker's certificate and entrance qualifications for technical school. Three-year courses lead to a skilled worker's certificate and university entrance qualification.

Most trades are open both to boys and girls, with the exception of 25 trades or specialist areas which cannot accept girls on health grounds.

Vocational training in both theory and practice is based on standard curricula endorsed by the state. As to its content, vocational training is subdivided into 3 parts: general training and basic vocational training (which comprise nearly two thirds of the training time) as well as special training.

The apprentices are already faced with challenging tasks in training and production. That is why the curricula and teaching material have to be constantly revised and adapted to the latest requirements. In this way it is guaranteed that the young skilled workers are well trained and highly flexible.

Two thirds of the apprentices get their theoretical training in modern, well-equipped vocational schools run by enterprises. In addition, there exist publicly administered vocational schools, special workshops in enterprises and training opportunities in the work process. There are more than 17,000 teachers for general

training and basic vocational training and a teaching staff of 32,000 for practical training. They are assisted by working people with long-standing experience who are entitled to give instruction.

By involving the apprentices in socialist competition, in the Young Innovators' Fair campaign and in youth projects where they fulfil plan targets together with young skilled workers they make a creative and equal contribution to the completion of economic tasks.

The apprentices receive a monthly allowance and are entitled to use all social and cultural facilities attached to their enterprises. One in three apprentices lives in an apprentice hostel.

Advanced level education

Attendance at the highest educational facilities, i.e. universities and colleges, presupposes the passing of a university entrance exam (Abitur). There are different ways in which this university entrance requirement can be obtained. Pupils who have completed their ten years of schooling may stay on for another two years to attend grades 11 and 12 of the extended secondary school or start a three-year vocational training course which leads both to the skilled worker's certificate and to university entrance qualifications. People in employment can study for their Abitur by attending evening classes or special Abitur courses offered by higher education establishments. The completion of courses at engineering and technical schools also entitles people to take up studies in the respective field. Immediately after the successful completion of the 10th grade about 15 per cent of the pupils go on to study for their Abitur. All pupils of the extended secondary school receive a maintenance grant and all those who undergo vocational training including Abitur get an apprentice's allowance.

Interest groups and leisure time activities

All schools and facilities belonging to the youth organization give pupils the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of interest groups on a voluntary basis. 95,700 such groups cater for children's special interests, inclinations and talents and represent a purposeful way of spending free time. Participation in the interest groups is free of charge and about 1.5 million pupils – more than 70 per cent of all pupils at our ten-year general polytechnical schools – make use of this opportunity.

GDR schools have some 25,000 hobby groups in the field of science and technology with a total membership of almost 300,000. About 550,000 girls and boys pursue their special interests in more than 30,000 cultural and arts groups. More than 35,000 pupils take an active interest in history and are members of some 3,200 hobby groups organized at schools, museums, archives and by the League of Culture. 80 per cent of all pupils go in for sporting activities in addition to compulsory sports lessons. At 95 per cent of all schools there exist school sports clubs (SSG).

Interest groups whose programmes continue with and examine more thoroughly the subject matter taught during normal lessons are particularly popular among older pupils. These include the study of mathematics, the natural and social sciences, art, culture and foreign languages.

In all counties and districts, in town and country, there exist many facilities where children and young people can put their leisure time to good use. These include about 150 Pioneer Houses, 190 Young Technologists' and Naturalists' Clubs and more than 70 Young Hikers' Clubs.

The Ernst Thälmann Pioneer Palace in Berlin which was opened in 1979, the International Year of the Child, is one of these facilities. In 300 or so hobby groups and events every day several thousand pupils are involved in interesting and informative leisure activities.

Universities, colleges and technical schools

In order to take up a course of study at an engineering or technical school applicants must have successfully completed their ten years' schooling and vocational training in a field of technology or economics and they must have a year's practical experience in their trade.

Universities and colleges are the highest educational institutions. Research and training are closely intertwined. Enrolment at a university or college presupposes the Abitur and for most courses school-leavers of the advanced secondary school are required to have completed one year's practical work.

Admission to higher education establishments is conditional upon the applicants' abilities and performance as well as social requirements. In addition, the social composition of the student population must reflect that of the population as a whole. For many years about 50 per cent of our students have been women. One in four students is attending a study course in the field of technology.

Full-time courses are free of charge. All students get a grant and are supported in many ways (student hostels, refectories, reduced fares, comprehensive support for student families and student mothers).

Courses at engineering and technical schools last three years as a rule and lead to officially recognized professional qualifications after final examinations.

Full-time courses at universities and colleges last four to five years, except for medicine which takes six years. The study programmes include basic theory, specialization in the scientific area concerned and practical periods in enterprises and institutions. Study courses are completed with the writing and defence of a scientific paper (Diplomarbeit) and the award of the first academic degree. Immediately after the Diplom particularly outstanding students may acquire a higher academic degree by starting research studies lasting three years and ending with the award of a PhD after the successful defence of a doctoral thesis.

Study courses at universities, colleges and technical schools are based on unified state curricula and teaching programmes. Higher education establishments cooperate closely with enterprises. This cooperation centres around purposeful research work, the optimum preparation of students for their future work and constantly improved in-service training of university, college and technical school graduates.

At the higher education establishments the Free German Youth is represented in all governing bodies. Its involvement is aimed at a high standard of education, promoting a varied intellectual and cultural life and determining study and living conditions.

The employment of graduates is subject to long-term preparation. They are all guaranteed a job.

Adult education

The adult education scheme is another integral part of the unified socialist education system. Basic and further education for adults not only serves to meet the requirements of the economy but also the needs of the working people with regard to education and culture – needs which result from one's standard of education, one's role in the production process and the question of how to use one's spare time. There exists a large network of facilities for adult education. In addition to correspondence courses and evening classes at universities, colleges and technical schools other forms of adult education are provided by state, enterprise and social institutions as well as by political parties and mass organizations.

On average one in four working persons is involved in some form of in-service training. It enables working people to expand and deepen their knowledge, to specialize in some field and to acquire skilled worker's, technical school or college qualifications. People will be trained for another job if this becomes necessary due to economic, health or other reasons. All these forms of qualification are supported by the enterprise academies, that is to say the enterprises' own education facilities. The working persons concerned are given time off for qualification purposes and they continue to receive their average monthly wages.

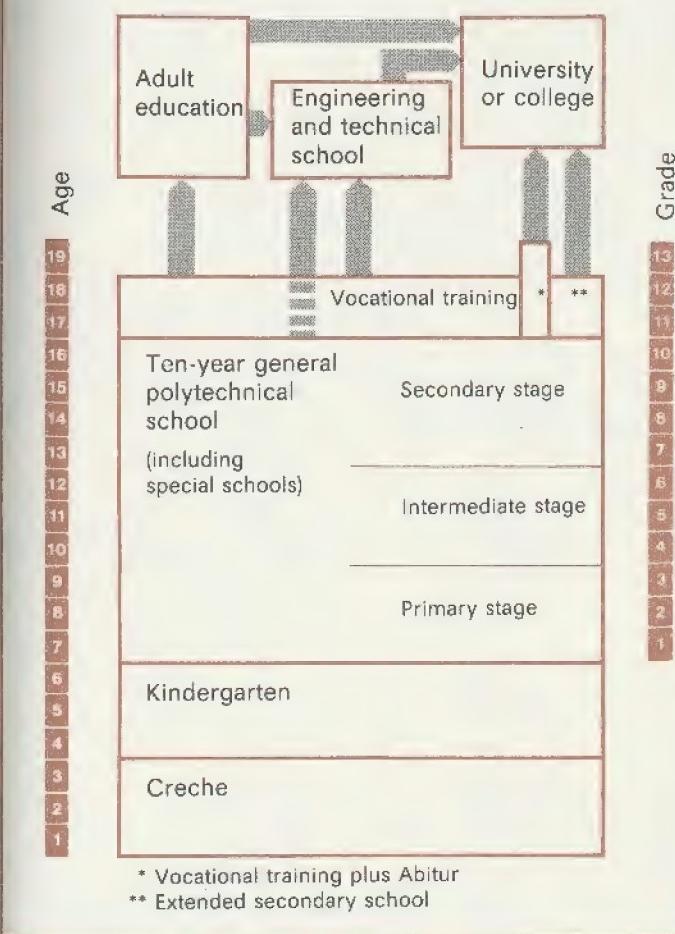
Evening classes play a prominent part in adult education. They enable people to take the final exams of the ten-year general polytechnical school, the Abitur or individual subjects. In addition they provide courses in foreign languages as well as specialist knowledge in all fields of science, technology, art and culture.

Mass organizations and scientific societies do much to enhance the interest in culture, science and the arts (League of Culture), try to disseminate scientific knowledge from society, nature and technology (URANIA) and emphasize the need for scientific and technological progress (Chamber of Technology, Society for Agrarian Sciences). Other forms of adult education are provided by the media, clubs and houses of culture. At universities and colleges Sun-

day lectures, courses designed for especially gifted pupils and special lectures for older people are held. A great variety of cultural events serve to cater for individual requirements and cover all age groups.

Education

**Structure
of the integrated socialist
education system
(simplified)**



In 1970 and 1985 the following educational facilities were provided

	1970	1985
Classrooms	89,594	120,000
School gyms	1,950	3,871
Places at boarding schools and in halls of residence	61,000	74,310

For all pupils of grades 1 to 4, whose parents so wish, there is a day-care place available.

83 per cent of schoolchildren take advantage of the school meals service, and 72 per cent drink the milk provided at schools.

Vocational training takes place at 963 vocational schools as well as about 3,600 other training facilities

- For school leavers of the 10th grade of the general polytechnical secondary school there are training opportunities in 238 skilled worker's professions and 47 rare skilled trades.
- For school leavers of the 8th grade there is training in 62 skilled worker's professions.

Between 1971 and 1985, at the 54 universities and colleges as well as 240 engineering and technical schools in the GDR more than a million specialists were trained. In 1985 there were 208,400 students in full-time education at a university or technical college. At the same time, 11,800 nationals from about 120 countries completed preparatory studies or preliminary and further training.

Qualification structure of working people in the socialist industry (in per cent)

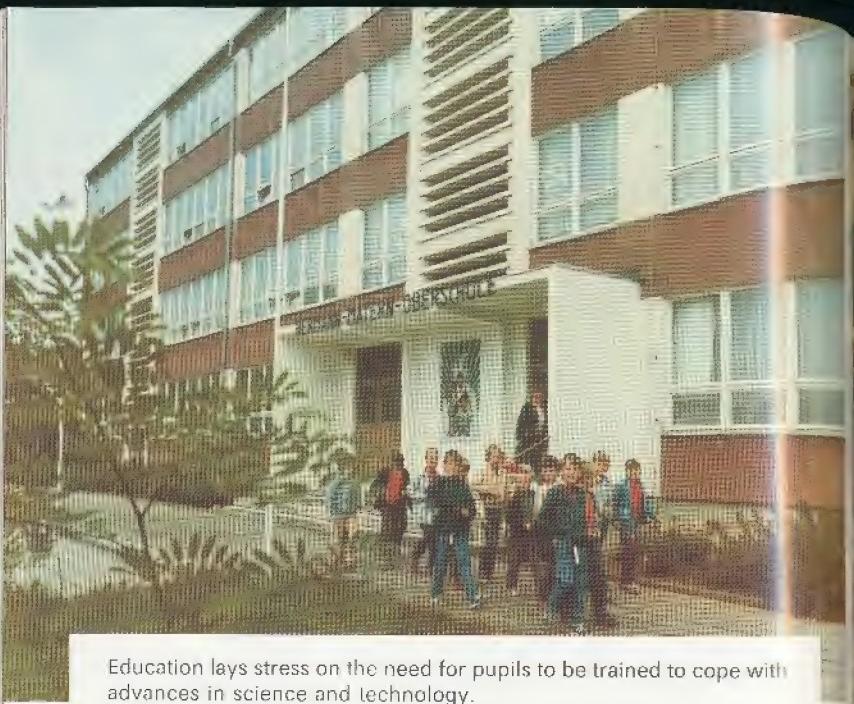
	1970	1980	1985
Supervisors and skilled workers	48	61	64
University and college graduates	11	19	21

Every year between 1981 and 1985, approximately a million skilled workers and supervisors underwent further training within the adult education system.

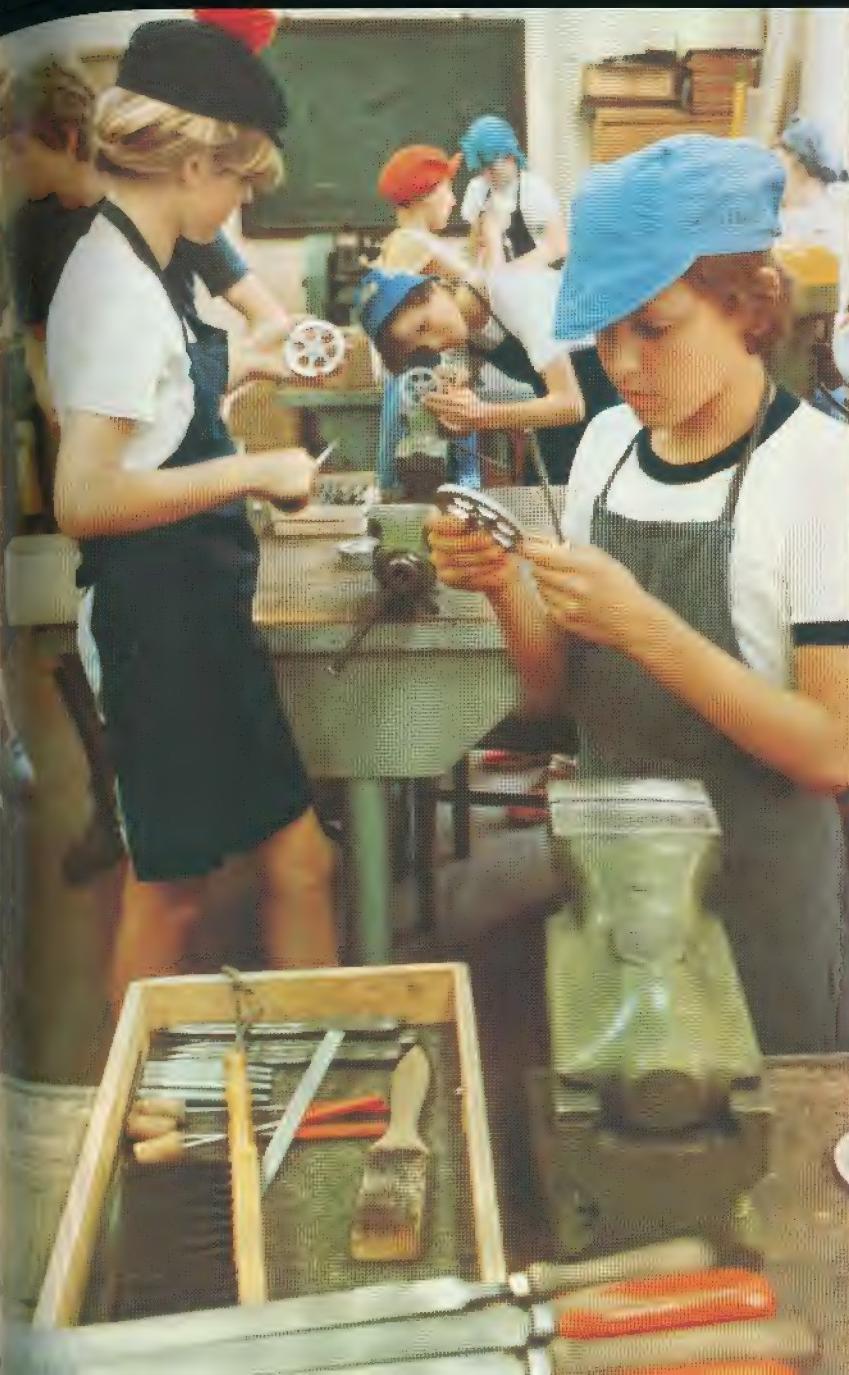
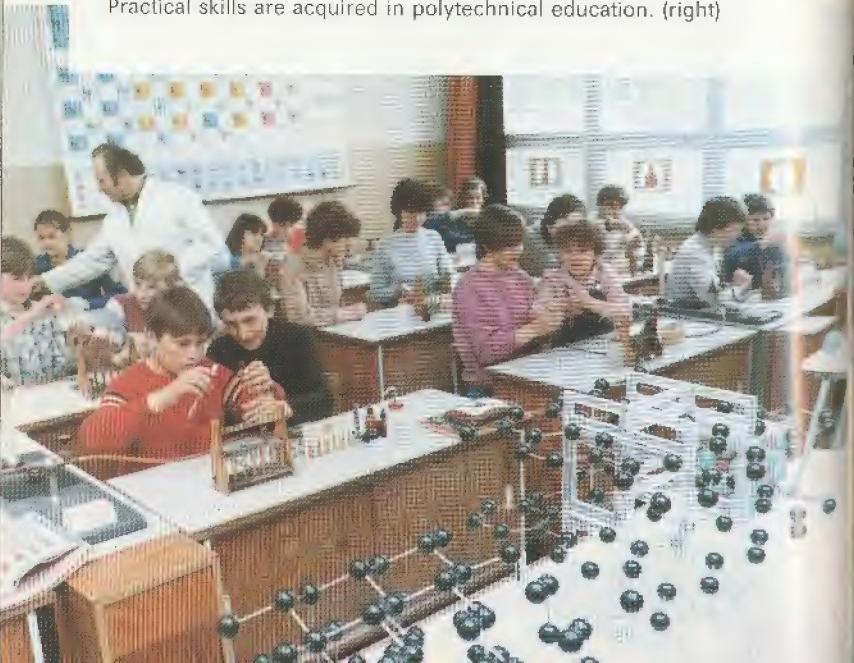
Between 1981 and 1985

- 239,293 working people qualified as skilled workers
- 63,136 skilled workers qualified as supervisors





Education lays stress on the need for pupils to be trained to cope with advances in science and technology.
Practical skills are acquired in polytechnical education. (right)





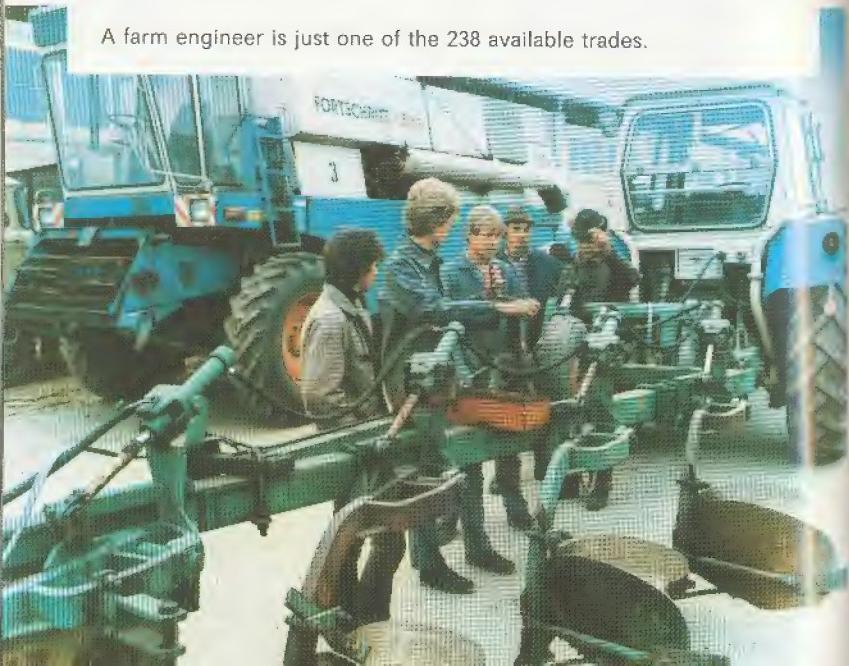
Jugendweihe, a ceremony at which 14-year-olds are admitted into the community of adults, and annual school reports are awaited with anticipation by children and parents alike.

Apprentices have experienced instructors to help them learn their future trades. (right)

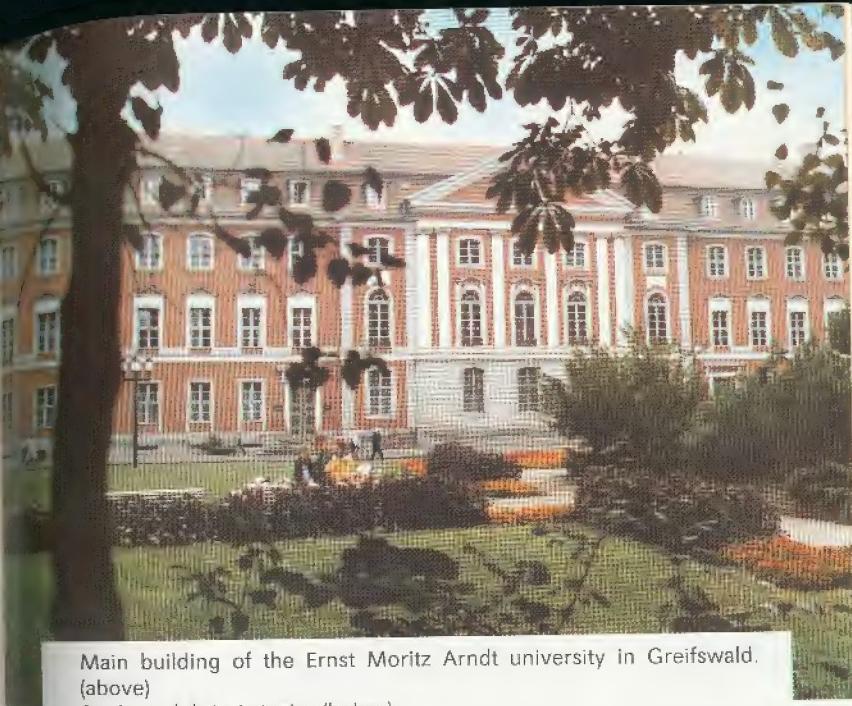




Future tilers learning practical skills.

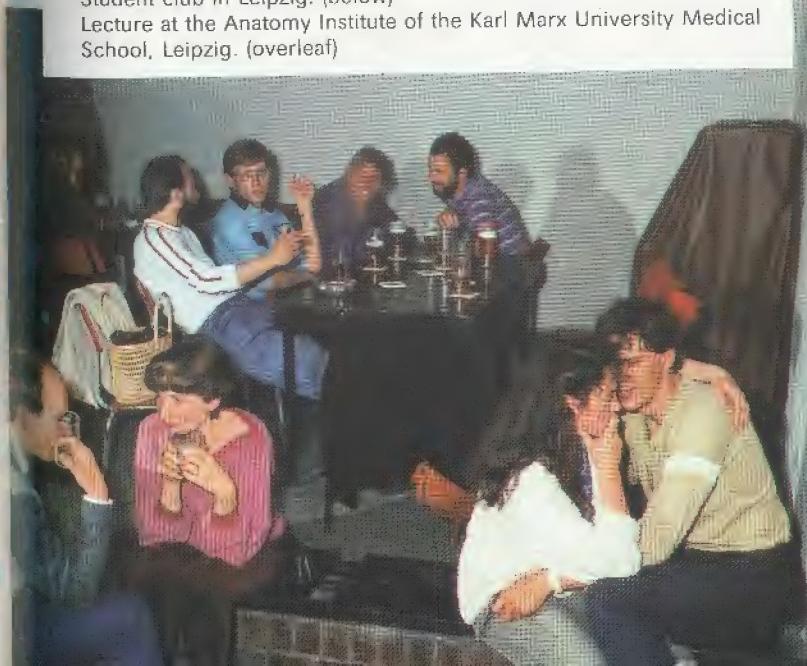


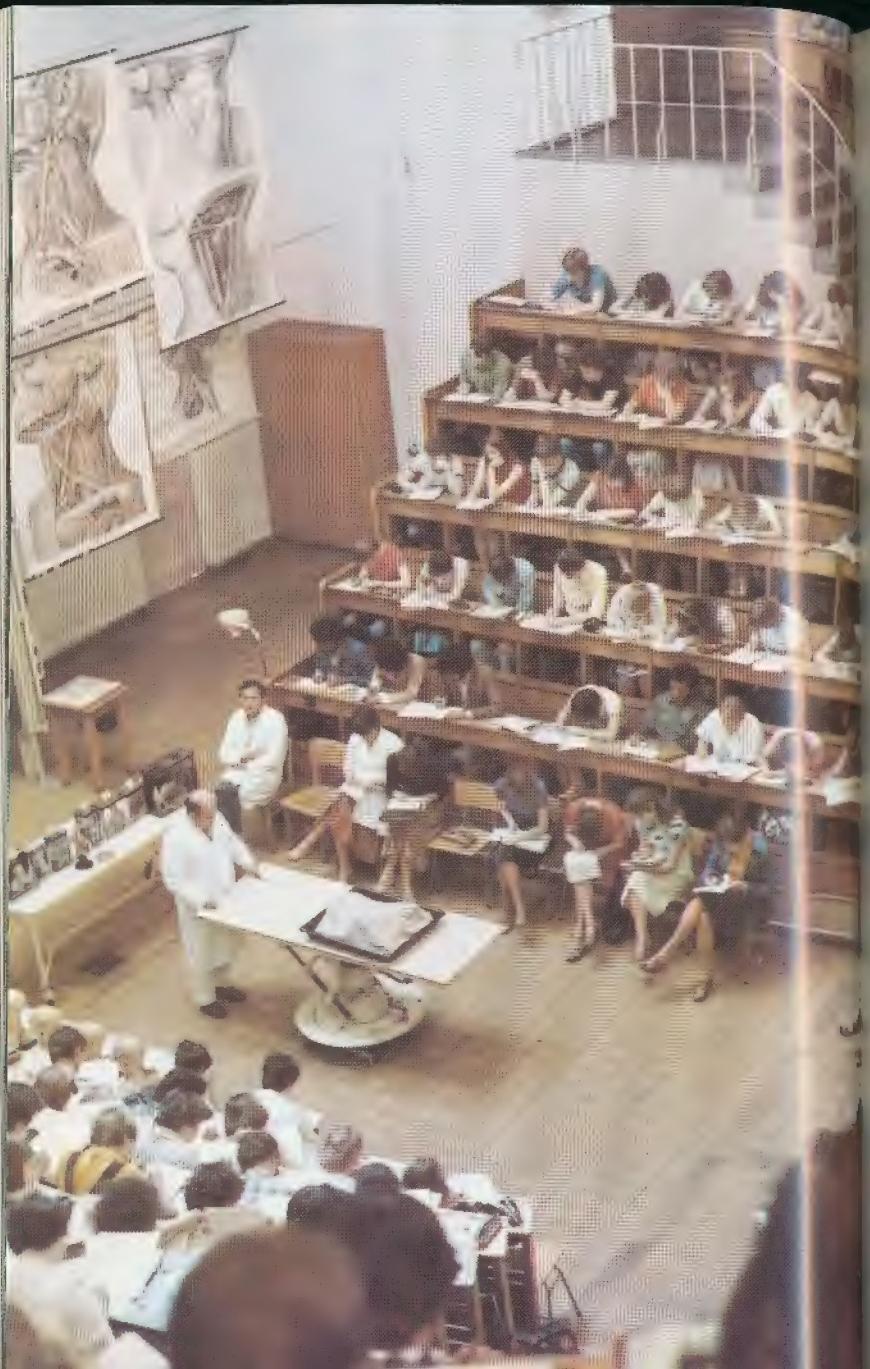
A farm engineer is just one of the 238 available trades.



Main building of the Ernst Moritz Arndt university in Greifswald.
(above)

Student club in Leipzig. (below)
Lecture at the Anatomy Institute of the Karl Marx University Medical School, Leipzig. (overleaf)





Culture

The GDR's socialist national culture is developing successfully. Conditions for a rich cultural life have been created for every citizen and are continually improving. Every citizen has easy access to the treasures and values of culture and art, which is facilitated by the GDR's integrated education system. A dense and extensive network of cultural institutions offers a wide range of opportunities for all citizens to participate in the country's rich intellectual and cultural life.

In the GDR, culture and art are not just for the chosen few, the experts; they have ceased to be elitist. The museums, theatres, concert halls, clubs, cinemas, radio and television as well as the majority of publishing houses are nationally-owned and are financed or subsidized from the state budget. There is a constant increase in the number of people who find, in works of art, new and deeper insight and knowledge and thus enrich their lives. At the same time the need for, and the interest in, personal cultural and artistic involvement is growing.

Citizens play a part in many ways in shaping cultural life. By taking part in cultural life and democratic decision making in management bodies, on advisory councils and commissions, in work groups attached to local assemblies and in interest groups they are realizing a basic right which is guaranteed by the GDR constitution. An important work in this respect is being done by the trade unions and the Free German Youth organization promoting multi-

faceted intellectual and cultural activities at places of employment and elsewhere. The GDR League of Culture, URANIA, a society to disseminate scientific knowledge, and other democratic mass organizations are also very active in the cultural field.

A cultural fund, in the charge of a committee chaired by the Minister of Culture, is used to award grants to promising new talent, finance study trips of artists, organize workshops for professional and amateur artists and various exhibitions as well as to encourage the creation of new works of art. Furthermore, towns and communities, enterprises and institutions, ministries and cultural institutions place commissions with the arts community.

Houses of culture, clubs and amateur cultural activities

Through various circles, study, interest and hobby groups as well as through social gatherings and arts functions houses of culture and clubs satisfy a wide range of interests and inclinations. They are also dedicated to discovering and encouraging new talent in the cultural and artistic spheres. Choirs, singing clubs of the youth organization, amateur dance orchestras, symphony and chamber orchestras, amateur dance groups, photographic circles, painting, drawing and pottery groups, amateur film studios and groups for workers who fancy turning their hand to writing provide the amateur arts community – usually under the guidance of professional artists – with a wide range of opportunities.

The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, jointly with the Ministry of Culture, the Central Council of the FDJ, the artists' associations, the GDR League of Culture, the National Council of the National Front and other organizations as well as individual enterprises, organizes biennial Workers' Arts Festivals. There are similar festivals at workplace level. In 1985 alone, 3,600 such festivals took place, a token of their great popularity. Being cultural events of the trade unions and displaying the cultural prowess of the working people, the national Workers' Festivals have become

a concern of the whole nation and are stimulating cultural life throughout the country.

Young people and culture

Culture and art are considered to form an important part of children's and young people's lives and to be an integral part of the development of their personalities.

Crèches and kindergartens, polytechnical and extended secondary schools, vocational training institutions as well as colleges and universities are trying to awaken an appreciation of cultural values, encourage individual creative involvement, arouse a love of art and develop artistic taste and aesthetic sense.

For schoolchildren of the 5th to 12th grade there are many extracurricular opportunities to take part in groups advised by parents, artists and other experts. These include arts clubs and societies, cultural ensembles, choirs, orchestras, musicians' societies and dance groups, philatelists' societies, foreign language societies and many others. Participation in these activities is entirely voluntary and is free of charge for all pupils.

The children's organization of the Young Pioneers and the youth organization of the Free German Youth offer many opportunities for stimulating cultural activities in pioneer club houses, young engineers' and natural scientists' groups, outdoor pursuit centres, and youth clubs.

The creative abilities of children and young adults are promoted through participation in competitions and national contests as well as field courses in the spheres of art, technology, mathematics, natural sciences and languages.

The singing movement which embraces approximately 2,600 singing clubs is one of the important initiatives launched by the youth organization. One outstanding event is the political song festival which takes place every year with participants from all over the world. It is impossible to imagine cultural life in the GDR without the young poets' seminars and the meetings of young reci-

ters, the song and dance ensembles and the "young talent" movement. More than half a million children send one or more entries – drawings, paintings or sculptures – to the annual "friendship galleries". There are almost 9,560 FDJ youth clubs in enterprises, cooperatives, neighbourhoods, villages, or attached to cultural and arts institutions, universities and schools. From 1980 to 1985 alone, 161 youth club facilities – mostly newly-built – providing a total of 18,000 places were established.

Many young people are very interested in music, films, books and visual arts. Virtually all of them have radio, television, cassettes and records. Every year 16 million children and youth visit museums, galleries and exhibitions. Almost 80 per cent of the boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 14 and more than 64 per cent of young people between the ages of 14 and 18 make regular use of public libraries. On average every pupil reads 20 books a year.

Five special theatres put on productions for young audiences between 6 to 16 years of age; other theatres do their bit to cater for the interests of young theatre-goers by staging some 70 specially adapted productions every year.

The arts

In the socialist society of the GDR, a great deal of value is placed on the arts.

Artists and writers feel they share a certain responsibility for the way in which their public views the world, and through their work they wish to promote the formation of educated and creative personalities.

In the GDR, art has become an important, indispensable means of public assessment and of discussion of social processes, moral values, and the successes of socialism as well as the opportunities for, and necessity of, being active socially. Art aims to stimulate people to reflect upon the values which lend sense to life in today's world, to help the reader, spectator and listener to make

their own evaluations and encourage social commitment. Socialist society pays particular attention to the training and promotion of young artists. In 1984/85 approximately 7,000 students were enrolled at a total of 22 higher educational establishments taking courses in arts, cultural policy and relevant fields.

Literature

People in the GDR read a great deal, and a lot is done to encourage new literary works.

A total of 78 publishing houses, the Writers Union, the state and social forces try in many ways to encourage new literary works. On average 200 new titles are published annually, children's books and literary classics not included.

GDR literature conveys, applying a wide range of conceptual and stylistic approaches and dealing with a diversity of themes, a wide spectrum of information on life in the GDR, the struggle for peace, social progress, human rights and a decent life for everyone in the world. Every year some 15 to 20 writers of all ages appear on the scene. The Writers Union and the publishing houses make a continuous effort to develop the talent of young authors. Work done by young amateur poets appears regularly in the youth press and in the Offene Fenster paperback series. The work of more established lyricists is published in the Poesiealbum series. The quarterly magazine Temperamente is a public forum for all sorts of budding literary figures. The Johannes R. Becher Institute of Literature in Leipzig brings on the up-and-coming talent. Over 1,100 bookshops are the outlets for literature, scientific textbooks, music and records as well as reproductions and art books.

Making use of libraries – one's own personal one or those of the state and the trade unions – is a quite natural part of life for many industrial workers, cooperative farmers and other working people. More than a third of the population are registered and regular users of public libraries and more than 20 per cent of these are workers. Book discussions, readers' and writers' dances, book

bazaars, the "Week of the Book", the "Festival of Soviet Literature" and similar events dealing with the literary scene of other countries, as well as the "Children's and Youth Literature Festival" all help to increase people's knowledge of literature and make books accessible to a large section of the public.

Theatre

The GDR is a country with a rich tradition in theatre and, considering its size and population, provides theatre-goers some of the best opportunities in the world offering them a choice of 183 theatres and stages.

Apart from the internationally renowned theatres in the capital Berlin—the Berliner Ensemble, the Deutsches Theater, the Staatsoper and the Komische Oper—and such centres of theatre as Dresden, Leipzig, Weimar, Karl Marx Stadt, Rostock or Schwerin there are theatres in many other towns with their very own artistic profiles. The yearly repertoire of over 1,000 plays includes the heritage of humanist, democratic and socialist drama as well as the works of contemporary national and international authors. Over the last ten years, about 50 per cent of the productions have been plays from CSCE member states.

The theatre in the GDR is a people's theatre. Many theatres and enterprises have established fruitful partnership relations. Chats in the foyer and discussions at rehearsals encourage the exchange of opinions between actors and the public on new dramatic works.

Music

The GDR is renowned for its rich culture in music. In the 15 countries there are a total of 88 independent orchestras, including theatre orchestras. Among them there are such famous ones as the Dresdner Staatskapelle, the Leipziger Gewandhausorchester, the Staatskapelle Berlin and the Berliner Sinfonieorchester. The al-

most 7,000 concerts in 1985, attended by some 3.8 million people, ranged from symphony and chamber concerts — including vocal music — to concert series such as "An hour of music" and "Winter concerts in the country" which take place even in the smallest of rural communities. An expression of the closeness of artists and working people are the manifold and often lasting contacts between orchestras and workteams, theatregoers' and listeners' fora.

The Dresden Music Festival as well as the Berlin Music Biennial Festival which annually alternate with the GDR Music Festival, as well as the Bach Festival in Leipzig, the Handel Festival in Halle and the Johann Sebastian Bach and Robert Schumann contests in Leipzig and Zwickau, respectively, attract numerous music lovers from home and abroad. 43 theatre companies which put on 650 productions every year — opera, ballet, operettas, musicals — offer a comprehensive programme.

342 composers, 229 musicologists, 181 performers and 155 music teachers are united in the Composers and Musicologists Union of the GDR. This association sticks up for their rights, encourages contemporary composers and helps popularize new works of music.

The Bach Museum in Eisenach, the Handel Museum in Halle or the Schütz Memorial in Bad Köstritz are some of the most well-known and most impressive of the GDR's museums, archives and musical instrument collections. Organs constructed in the GDR and musical instruments from Markneukirchen and Klingenthal are known the world over.

Light Entertainment

Due to growing demands, recreation, entertainment and social intercourse play an important part in the country's cultural life. Joint efforts by entertainers, cultural institutions, social organizations and public authorities under the auspices of the Light Entertainment Committee have succeeded in raising entertainment to new

and higher standards. A wide spectrum of entertainment is offered: from discotheques to dance evenings, from rock concerts to song contests, from variety shows to cultural festivals. The number of such events has grown noticeably in the last few years. The approximately 51,000 events coordinated in 1985 by concert and guest performance organizers attracted about 15 million visitors. Some 2.5 million people went to see the programmes of the GDR State Circus. Every year, the country's 14 cabarets entertain over 600,000 spectators with political satire.

There are many different forms of dance music ranging from disco to rock-symphonic and electronic experiments, from atmospheric music to pop music influenced by folk music and chansons, from hard rock to jazz rock, from melodic rock music to blues and soul. The fraternity of jazz lovers is growing continuously, celebrating all styles of jazz music from popular dixieland to modern jazz drawing on contemporary symphonic and chamber music.

About 5,000 amateur dance bands and almost as many amateur discotheque compères as well as 350 professional dance bands and approximately 80 professional disc jockeys do their bit in providing leisure activities. Approximately 50 million people every year go to discos.

In 1982, renowned rock musicians in our country responded for the first time to an appeal to start a joint action in the cause of peace using the specific means at their disposal. The event met with a great response both from the performing artists and the numerous guests from home and abroad. Since then "Rock for Peace" has become one of the cultural highlights of the year. In January 1986, 100,000 people experienced 123 hours of live music during the "Rock for Peace" concerts.

The visual and applied arts

Visual and applied arts come in many forms and genres and have a permanent home in museums, exhibitions, neighbourhood galleries and arts centres. However, works of art are also to be found in

enterprises and public buildings, on squares and in parks in the towns and villages. They brighten up buildings and streets. Art is part of everyday life. This can be seen particularly in the combination of visual arts and architecture in socialist urban development and housing construction, and in the synthesis of architecture and environment.

Every five years Dresden plays host to national art exhibitions. They are preceded by exhibitions at county level. These exhibitions — they include paintings, graphic arts, sculpture, design, craft, poster and photographic art — attract visitors from all over the country. The exhibits, often commissioned by enterprises, testify to the close relationship between artists and the general public.

Government authorities and social organizations help to improve the living and working conditions of the arts community. Artists are assisted through the provision of studio space and commissions available from a wide range of social institutions.

Films

Films, whether made for television or the silver screen, are a major facet of the GDR's cultural scene and have come to play an important role as an artistic means of education. GDR films are deeply committed to the ideals of humanism. The studios of the nationally-owned DEFA film company turn out every year 15 to 18 feature films and numerous documentary and animated films. Apart from the television network, about 5,700 cinemas and projection halls help publicize national and international film productions. Every year the cinemas show 130 to 150 feature films from all over the world which attract well over 70 million people. National and international documentary films have established themselves in television and cinema. An example of this is the documentary and short film week held in Leipzig.

The film buffs' movement in the GDR has achieved great popularity. It brings together film enthusiasts and provides the opportu-

nity to familiarize oneself with, and discuss, national and international film productions. National festivals of feature, documentary and children films are organized at regular intervals.

Cultural heritage

The National Council for Preserving and Spreading German Cultural Heritage, which is a body attached to the Council of Ministers, does a great deal to preserve and develop both the German and international cultural heritage.

The cultivation of the cultural heritage takes on many forms ranging from the celebration of anniversaries and jubilees, the upkeep and use of monuments, the work of museum authorities, the collection, preservation and investigation of historical records. Then there are a major publishing sector and the records brought out by VEB Deutsche Schallplatte, theatres, orchestras and amateur arts groups, education at schools and mass cultural work. By organizing tributes to Marx and Luther, Goethe and Schiller, Einstein and Brecht, to Johannes Böttger, the discoverer of European hard-paste porcelain; Robert Koch, the discoverer of the tuberculosis bacillus, the progressive, bourgeois educational theorist Friedrich Fröbel and the landscape gardener Hermann Fürst von Pückler-Muskau and many others, the GDR has been continuing over the recent years to preserve the cultural heritage.

Monuments and memorials

The GDR possesses a valuable stock of monuments to history and culture, science, art and technology. About 48,000 items are on the protected list. 300 monuments are listed by UNESCO as buildings and structures of major international importance. These include the town centres of Erfurt and Quedlinburg which date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Other examples are the cathedrals in Magdeburg, Naumburg, Erfurt, Meissen, the Wartburg Castle near Eisenach, the Dresden Zwinger as well as architecturally im-

portant areas, such as Unter den Linden and Platz der Akademie in Berlin. An Act on the Preservation of Monuments in the GDR makes it incumbent on government bodies, public organizations and private individuals to assist with their upkeep. The work of builders in reconstructing, restoring, maintaining and preserving monuments, buildings of cultural importance and certain urban areas have been greatly approved by GDR citizens and have also received international acknowledgement. The reconstruction of the former Berlin Schauspielhaus designed by Schinkel into a concert house, the Semper Opera in Dresden and the Deutsches Theater in Berlin as well as the restoration of Wartburg Castle are all examples of efforts to maintain the heritage and traditions and to enrich cultural life in the GDR. The reconstruction work around Berlin's Platz der Akademie is almost completed. The Marx Engels Forum as well as the Ernst Thälmann memorial were inaugurated in the capital in the spring of 1986.

More than 100,000 volunteers are taking part in a community effort to preserve memorials and their surroundings which has been organized since 1982 by the National Council of the National Front, the Ministry of Culture and the League of Culture. More than 6,700 people do an exemplary work in about 488 interest groups which make up the Society for the Preservation of Monuments attached to the League of Culture.

The activities organized for the preservation of monuments found a wider and more solid base thanks to the establishment and development of VEB Denkmalpflege, a nationally owned enterprise specialized in the restoration of artifacts, the training of qualified specialists and restorers as well as the encouragement of crafts which have almost died out.

Museums

In 1985, more than 34 million people visited the 690 museums in the GDR. The preservation and presentation of Egyptian, Oriental, Early Christian-Byzantine antiquities and national and contempor-

ary objets d'art in the large museums in Berlin, the collections in the picture gallery and the Green Vault in Dresden, the Sans Souci palaces and gardens in Potsdam, the National Foundation of Classical German Literature in Weimar and others continue to receive praise and admiration. The documentation of the history of the German people right from the beginning to the present day in the Museum of German History in Berlin attracts tens of thousands of visitors every year. In the last decade, the various exhibitions of art from the past and the present in the museums and galleries have gained considerably in importance. All in all, some 1,600 special exhibitions are put on every year in the museums with exhibits from home and abroad. In addition, specialists deliver some 19,000 lectures on various subjects, and over 11,000 special events or functions are organized.

International cultural exchanges

The GDR endeavours to develop cultural exchanges with any country which so wishes, and is trying hard to acquaint its own population with the cultural achievements of other peoples. The GDR has signed relevant agreements with more than 50 countries. Cooperation is particularly close with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

Some of the most important annual events are the GDR Cultural Festival in the USSR and, likewise, the Soviet Cultural Festival in the GDR. Almost 3,000 artists and cultural workers from the GDR put on more than 1,000 concerts and theatre performances as well as 30 exhibitions and took part in 20 theoretical conferences. During the 1985 Soviet Cultural Festival in the GDR alone, over 3,000 Soviet artists, cultural workers and scientists visited the GDR. Highlights were, as always, the performances of the Alexandrov Ensemble, the Bolshoi Ballet, the Soviet State Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Puppet Theatre, the Georgian State Dance Company, the North Russian People's Choir, the Leningrad Music Hall and the Moscow State Circus as well as exhibitions by Soviet artists.

Guest appearances in the GDR by foreign ensembles and soloists as well as GDR artists abroad all help enrich cultural life. Between 1980 and 1985 there were 2,125 concerts and performances in the GDR by 393 foreign orchestras, theatre, opera and ballet companies and folklore ensembles. During the same period, 315 ensembles of GDR artists excelled in 2,261 performances and concerts abroad. GDR soloists made almost 13,000 appearances.

International exchanges in this period included 345 exhibitions from the GDR in 95 countries and 200 exhibitions from 64 countries in the GDR.

At present the GDR is represented in about 70 international, non-governmental organizations in the field of culture and is actively contributing to the work of UNESCO. The GDR is also represented in the ITI (International Theatre Institute), the IOSTT (Inter-

national Organization of Scenographers and Theatre Technicians) and the ASSITEJ (International Association of Youth and Children's Theatres). The GDR Writers Union is a member of PEN, the international association of poets and playwrights, and the GDR librarians' association is affiliated to IFLA, the International Federation of Library Association. The GDR is a member of the International Association for Scientific Films (AICS) and the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). It is also a member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). There is also a GDR presence in the International Association of Visual Arts (AIAP), the International Art Historians' Association (AICA) and the International Council of Commercial Artists' Associations (ICOGRAD).

In the recent years the GDR was, *inter alia*, host to important general meetings and colloquies organized by the international organizations in the fields of theatre, monument preservation, puppet theatre and amateur film.

A particularly good example of the attractiveness of GDR art abroad was the exhibition "Tradition and Renewal" of paintings and graphic designs by 13 renowned GDR artists which was shown in Britain in 1984/85 and visited by more than 100,000 people in Oxford, Coventry, Sheffield and London.

Culture

**Breakdown of government spending in 1985
on culture**

(excluding radio and television; in per cent)



35.6 theatres, cinemas, orchestras

20.7 houses of culture, community centres,
promotion of amateur arts

8.8 public libraries

12.6 museums and art galleries

2.5 music schools

3.0 preservation of monuments

16.8 others

Government spending on culture
(excluding radio and television; in billion marks)

1970	1980	1985
1.1	1.6	2.1

Book production

	1970	1980	1985
Titles	5,234	6,109	6,471*
Number of copies (millions)	122	148	145

* Of these 3,555 were first and 2,916 later editions.

The average number of books per household is approximately 143. In addition there are the libraries with a total stock of 112.5 million books.

The public libraries in the GDR have more than 11 million children's books. The stock increases every year by approximately 250,000.

In 1985 a total of 858 titles for children and young people were brought out. A third of the 3.9 million people who use general libraries are young people.

The cultural workers' union which is confederated in the FDGB is the trade union organization of artists and employees of theatres, orchestras and museums as well as art schools and colleges. Its membership is about 60,000, which is 95 per cent of all those active in the cultural sphere.

The purpose of its work is to:

- improve the standard of the professional qualifications of its members
- improve their living and working conditions.

The union concludes labour agreements with the artists' associations and maintains friendly relations with over 50 artists' associations around the world.

Cinematic art in the GDR

- DEFA-Aussenhandel, the nationally owned film trading organization, markets GDR films through 1,100 distributors and broadcasting stations in 105 countries on 5 continents. Export agreements were concluded with 80 countries.
- In 1985 the GDR showed 103 DEFA films at approximately 50 international festivals in 30 countries.
- By the end of 1985 DEFA-Aussenhandel had concluded about 3,000 export agreements for 400 productions from the DEFA cartoon film studios.

The National Workers' Festival takes place every other year in one of the GDR's 15 counties.





Painting and drawing group at the teachers' centre in Halle (above)
... and the sculpture group at the iron and steelworks in Eisenhüttenstadt (below) are just two out of some 22,000 such hobby groups throughout the GDR.



Song groups and solo performers from many countries come together every year at the Political Song Festival in Berlin.
Meeting between young writers and their more experienced peers at the traditional poets' seminar in Schwerin.





The rebuilt Semper Opera House (below) in Dresden saw its gala premiere with a presentation of **Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg** produced by the composer's grandson, Wolfgang Wagner.



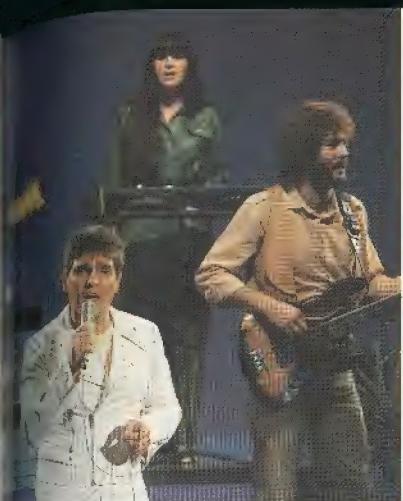
Rehearsal by the **Thomanerchor**, Leipzig, a world-famous boys' choir, under the direction of Prof. Hans-Joachim Rotzsch.

Concert in Berlin's Schauspielhaus, rebuilt after destruction in the war.





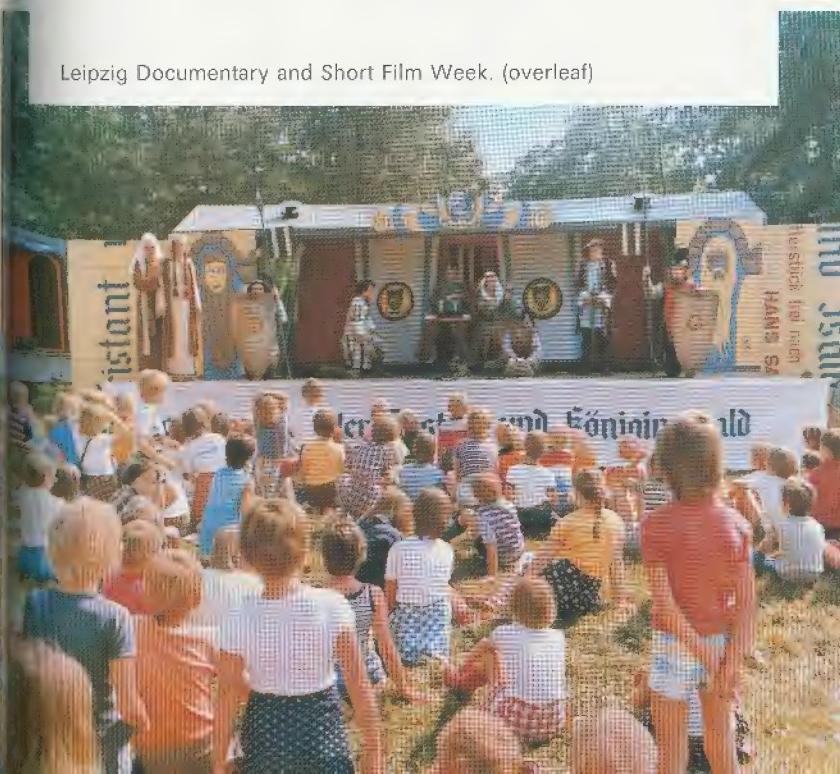
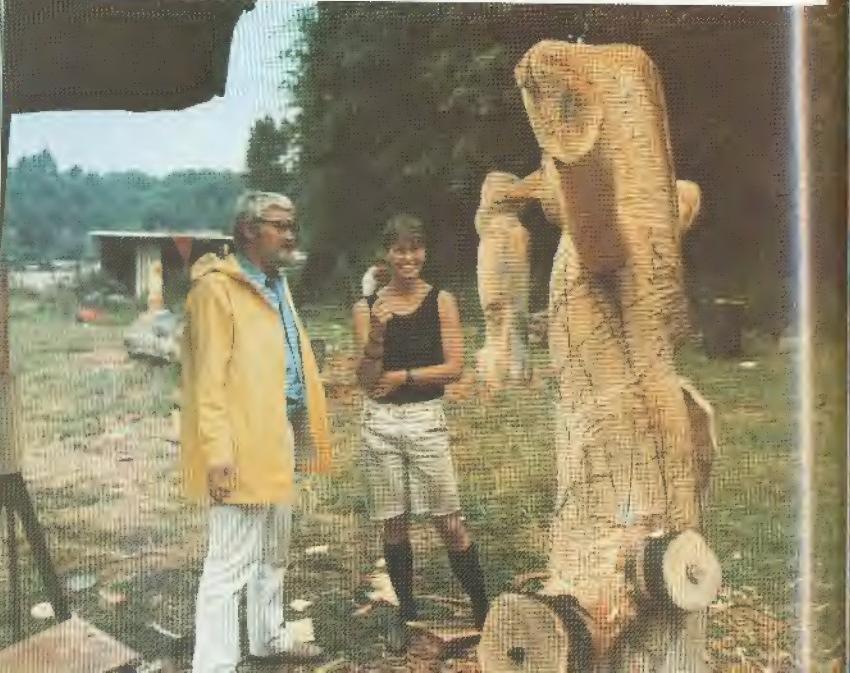
Berlin's Friedrichstadtpalast, one of Europe's most famous variety theatres, has had a new home since 1984.



Frank Schöbel, one of the GDR's favourite pop singers. (above left)
The staff of the theatre in Rudolstadt go to the road in the summer months to perform for holidaymakers. (below)



Leipzig Documentary and Short Film Week. (overleaf)





Health services

Comprehensive health care for all, health protection and promotion of people's well-being are important aspects of the GDR's social policy. All citizens are guaranteed equal access to health care irrespective of social background, social situation and place of residence. All medical care is free of charge.

Each citizen is free to consult a doctor of his or her own choosing.

Social security

A comprehensive, standard insurance scheme exists in the GDR. There are two kinds of insurance. The social insurance scheme for workers and salaried employees, run by and financed through the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, covers about 90 per cent of the population. The remaining ten per cent, including members of agricultural and craft cooperatives, self-employed persons etc., are covered by a state-run organization. Pensioners and non-working dependants of those with compulsory insurance also enjoy full insurance coverage.

The cost of the insurance scheme for workers and salaried employees is borne by those insured, their enterprises and the state. The contributions of those ensured have for years been stable at 10 per cent of gross income with an upper limit of 60 marks per

month. For several years now those desiring additional services in case of illness, invalidity and old age have had the opportunity to take out a supplementary insurance on a voluntary basis.

Contributions to this supplementary insurance amount to 10 per cent of a person's monthly income earned in excess of 600 marks. This enables an increase in retirement and invalidity pension and survivor's benefits to a maximum of 90 per cent of previous net income.

Insurance coverage of all employees and their dependants is the key to free and general access to medical care. In-patient and out-patient medical services are provided by state- and church-run facilities. Doctors are under no financial constraints in prescribing medication.

The social insurance system provides all necessary services and benefits for insured persons and their dependants, such as curative treatment including time spent at a spa or sanatorium, medication, artificial limbs, hearing aids, surgical supports and other equipment as well as preventive treatment. Major benefits are

- sickness benefit for employees temporarily incapable of work due to illness, industrial injury, occupational disease and quarantine as well as for those undergoing preventive, curative or recuperative treatment at a spa or sanatorium
 - maternity allowance before and after confinement
 - financial assistance to single parents as well as families with two or more children obtaining leave from work to care for sick children
 - paid leave for women after the birth of the first and the second child up to the child's first birthday and paid leave after the birth of the third and any further child up to the age of 18 months
 - pensions for persons reaching retirement age and in case of illness, industrial injury or occupational disease leaving a person partly or totally incapable of work (the amount depending on the degree of the disability)
 - payments made in a transition period from one job to another to prevent occupational disease
 - attendance allowance, assistance for the blind
 - death grant.
- In the case of illness, quarantine or spa treatment, a person is entitled to 90 per cent of average net earnings for a period of up to six weeks. From the 7th to 78th week sickness benefit varies between 50 and 90 per cent according to the number of children. Employees who have taken out a voluntary supplementary insurance will get 70 to 90 per cent of average net earnings (up to the 78th week), depending on the number of children.
- If someone is unable to work because of an accident at work or occupational disease, full average pay will be granted until his or her health has been restored, but for no more than 78 weeks. By then it has to be decided whether a pension is payable. Sickness benefit is also paid during hospitalization.
- All these benefits guarantee material security in old age and in the case of illness, accident, invalidity and motherhood.

Health care

Good medical care and the continuing improvement of social conditions have had favourable effects on the general standard of health. Vivid examples are the rise in life expectancy, the decline of the infant mortality rate and of the incidence of infectious diseases, and the shift in the incidence of chronic disease to those in a higher age bracket.

Life expectancy has risen by six to seven years since the GDR was founded to 70 years for men and 75 years for women.

The infant mortality rate (per '000 live births) had declined from 18.5 in 1970 to 9.6 in 1985 as a result of the exemplary care for expectant mothers and improved obstetric and paediatric services.

State-sponsored compulsory immunization programmes have led to marked success in controlling infectious diseases. Smallpox, polio, diphtheria and tetanus no longer occur among children and young people. A clear downward trend is discernible with re-

gard to tuberculosis, typhoid and paratyphoid, infectious hepatitis and whooping cough.

A major element of health care for children and young people are regular medical inspections in crèches, kindergartens, schools and vocational schools. Regular X-ray screenings are available to all people and compulsory for certain age groups. For diabetics and rheumatics as well as patients with tumours there are specific health surveillance schemes.

Accidents are the main threat to the health and life of younger people. Since 1970 the number of accidents and the number of people who were injured or died in accidents have been reduced with the help of administrative measures (obligatory use of safety belts, ban on driving under the influence of alcohol) and of improvements in the health service (extension of ambulance services).

Statutory norms for protecting the biosphere and the countryside and for noise control also promote the prevention of illness. Great emphasis is being placed on the prevention, early recognition and early treatment of diseases. The overriding principle is that the services provided should promote improvement in the health of the people, in the prevention of illness and in lowering the incidence of death in cases where it is avoidable.

Medical and social care

Health and social services focus on raising the nation's general standard of health, i.e. on bringing about tangible improvements in outpatient and inpatient medical care for the entire population.

The term primary health care covers all medical services – preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative – that are available locally to the residents of all districts. It makes up the biggest share of medical services in general. Primary health care is provided by a large number of in- and outpatient facilities with different specialist departments. The linchpin of the GDR's health care

system is the health centre (Poliklinik), which provides medical, surgical, gynaecological, paediatric and dental services and includes an X-ray department, a diagnostic laboratory and facilities for physiotherapy. The Ambulatorium is smaller than the health centre, but as a rule it has three specialist departments. This kind of outpatient unit is the norm in rural areas and for the industrial health service. The network of outpatient facilities also comprises state-run and private medical practices.

District nurses play a highly important role. Employed by the state and of considerable assistance to doctors, they give first aid and carry out therapeutic measures prescribed by doctors. They work relatively independently under the doctor's direction; their responsibilities also include preventive and social care. There are 5,463 district nurses' posts in rural areas all over the country, which has contributed to an overall improvement in rural health care.

All in all there are about 1,600 health centres and outpatient units in the GDR staffed by 18,000 doctors. This means that about half of the members of the medical profession work in the busiest area of the health care system. On average, people see a doctor nine times a year. Dental services, too, have been extended; the number of consultations in 1985 was 20 million for adults and seven million for children.

State-run hospitals are assuming growing importance as regional centres for diagnosis and treatment. As a rule they have outpatient departments as well. Statutory rules concerning the responsibilities and the running of hospitals were passed in 1979. There are 460 state-run hospitals, 78 maintained by the churches as well as four private establishments for in-patients. Bed capacity is about 170,000, i.e. about ten beds per 1,000 inhabitants.

Some 2.4 million patients are admitted to hospital each year. About 75 per cent of them are treated in departments of medicine, surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, and paediatrics which together account for 55 per cent of all hospital beds.

In addition to primary health care, specialist and highly special-

ized medical care is provided, such as implementation of artificial joints and pacemakers, and dialysis.

Almost 170,000 haemodialysis sessions were carried out in 1985. In the same year, 220 out of every million inhabitants first received a cardiac pacemaker. Cardiac surgery is undertaken by five institutions: the Charité (Berlin's teaching hospital), the Leipzig, Halle und Rostock teaching hospitals and an establishment at Bad Berka. Facilities for neurosurgery exist in three institutions: at the Charité and the universities of Leipzig and Greifswald. Kidney transplants are performed at the Rostock and Halle teaching hospitals and at the Berlin-Friedrichshain hospital. The Charité in Berlin leads the way in the field of highly specialized care.

The blood transfusion service, a major prerequisite for a high standard of surgery, operates effectively in the GDR. Voluntary unpaid donors account for half of all donor sessions.

Ambulance services are being further expanded, with special emphasis on 24-hour medical services. The number of patients requiring immediate medical attention is about 200,000 per year.

Industrial health

The GDR's Constitution and the Labour Code guarantee each citizen the right to work and with it the right to health and safety at the workplace. Responsibility for health protection at the workplace rests with the managers as well as with the economic authorities and ministries. Doctors and paramedical staff, employed in enterprises by the health authorities, provide medical care for employees on the basis of legal provisions and in line with the size of the enterprise and the health hazards involved in working there.

Their main task is the early recognition and prevention of health damage. They carry out periodic check-ups and pre-employment examinations. Great attention is being paid to the prevention of occupational diseases and industrial injuries, health education, frequent hygiene controls and further improvements in working conditions.

A wide network of industrial health facilities exists with a total staff of about 2,500 full-time doctors (including 900 specializing in industrial hygiene) and 10,000 nurses. These 3,800 facilities provide comprehensive health care (prevention, treatment and rehabilitation) for 6.7 million employees. The industrial health service exerts its influence to achieve a reduction in the number of jobs involving heavy physical labour and health hazards. Worth mentioning are reductions in the incidence of serious occupational diseases such as black lung, chronic poisoning and hearing impairment caused by noise. The number of people suffering physical injury due to occupational diseases has also declined steadily. Comprehensive industrial safety regulations and surveys of accident causes have brought a steady reduction in the number of people killed and injured at work.

The downward trend in the incidence of industrial injuries is largely due to the efforts made by the industrial health service. Since 1980, the incidence has declined by 13.9 per cent and in 1985 stood at an all-time low of 24.9 accidents per 1,000 employees.

Care for mothers and children

Legislation concerning care for mothers and children and the rights of women was adopted in 1950. This law embodies the state's special support for the institutions of marriage, the family and motherhood.

Care for mothers and children begins at an early stage, namely in the 900 or so prenatal clinics where pregnant women receive periodic medical check-ups. Ninety per cent of them do so from the 12th week of pregnancy onwards. Over 99 per cent of all children are born in hospital. Examinations of all new-born babies for phenylketonuria and vaccinations against tuberculosis (BCG) are carried out while they are still in the maternity ward.

Following their discharge from hospital babies receive medical care in post-natal clinics, of which there are about 10,000. The

number of consultations, most of them medical check-ups, approaches 3 million per year. These clinics monitor and promote the physical and mental development of the infants through systematic medical, preventive and social care. They are responsible for the vaccination of children who do not attend a crèche.

In line with the principle of equality for women, different forms of family planning exist. The availability of contraceptives has greatly contributed to the freedom to choose the number of children wanted. A gynaecologist will prescribe contraceptives on demand and free of charge. According to the Termination of Pregnancy Act of 9 March 1972 an unwanted pregnancy can be terminated free of charge at the woman's request up to the 12th week with no conditions involved. The operation is performed in hospital, and patients are entitled to sickness benefit. An abortion is inadmissible if it may give rise to complications endangering the patient's health or life.

Aid for the handicapped

The integration of physically and mentally handicapped persons into the life of the community is being promoted in different ways. Comprehensive measures in the field of rehabilitation, medical and social care go together with efforts to make education and work possible for them. The basic humanistic approach in socialist society ensures that everyone has a right to education, work and material security. Aid for the handicapped is mainly focussed on

- vocational training in enterprises for the severely physically disabled or, if necessary, in special vocational training centres; and possibly college or university training
- integration of the severely disabled and the severely mentally handicapped in the work process, e.g. in sheltered departments, sheltered workshops or individual sheltered jobs
- accommodation in homes for the disabled in the vicinity of their enterprises
- promotion of uneducable but trainable children and young people in day centres and residential homes (extension of existing facilities and creation of new ones), and instruction of family members on the rudiments of working with and supporting the severely handicapped
- holidays and recreation for handicapped children, young people and adults
- involvement of handicapped young people in cultural activities, especially in clubs
- sports for the handicapped in special sports clubs.

Physically and mentally handicapped children and young people receive special care. At present there are 14,100 places in day centres, residential homes and hospitals where uneducable but trainable children are instructed in accordance with uniform curricula. Education for physically and mentally handicapped children and young people is provided by 600 special schools with 6,000 classes (schools for the blind, the partially sighted, the deaf, those with speech impediments, schools for the physically and mentally

handicapped and special schools attached to hospitals). These are attended by about 75,000 pupils. At present 29,000 handicapped people have individual sheltered jobs, and 10,000 work in sheltered departments and in sheltered workshops run by the health service. Thus the right to work is guaranteed to the severely physically disabled and the mentally handicapped as well. By promoting its handicapped members and integrating them to the largest possible extent into its life, socialist society has lived up to its humanist responsibility. The valuable contribution made by church-run facilities to the care of the disabled is held in great esteem in this country.

Medical research and training

A substantial research potential has been created in the medical field as a prerequisite for a high level of medical and social care.

In line with present tasks and future challenges, medical research capacity was concentrated on ten major research areas and sixteen research projects that determine the profile of medical research in this country.

Major areas of research include e.g. ischaemic heart diseases and hypertension, neoplastic diseases, occupational diseases, diabetes and disorders of fat metabolism.

Doctors and dentists are trained at six universities and three medical schools; two universities offer training programmes for pharmacists. Berlin's Humboldt University offers courses for Diplom-Medizinpädagogen, i.e. graduate teachers of paramedical students. Applicants for medical (six years) or dental (five years) training are required to spend one year doing practical work in nursing and outpatient dental care, respectively, prior to enrolment.

The medical course is followed by four or five years of compulsory further training in preparation for a career as a specialist. There are 32 specialities and four special fields of dentistry. Specialist training is both theoretical and practical, with periods in medical research and in in- and outpatient care.

Prospective paramedical workers attend three-year courses at one of the 62 colleges for professions supplementary to medicine. There are training courses in 17 specialities, e.g. for nurses, sick children's nurses, dental assistants, midwives, physiotherapists and laboratory assistants. Further specialization is possible in 32 subjects. Candidates must have completed ten years of schooling.

Holidays, leisure time and recreation

The way of life in a country is determined greatly by the amount of leisure time and by the needs and habits of the population.

For millions of people in the GDR reading, personal artistic, sporting and social activities form as much part of leisure time as outings, further education or social events.

Many families spend holidays and spare time together with friends and acquaintances.

Likewise, the universities, enterprises, schools and mass organizations as well as towns and communities offer ample opportunities for people to spend their spare time purposefully. Substantial financial and other means are made available by these institutions and the state from the relevant funds.

Inner-city amusement and leisure parks, sports facilities, leisure centres, houses of culture and club houses, theatres, cinemas, museums, various exhibitions and, last but not least, one's own garden offer the chance for a well-earned rest, relaxation or active recovery.

Holidays

In the GDR there is a five-day working week of $43\frac{3}{4}$ hours. For people on continuous shift schemes and mothers with 2 or more children of 16 years or under, the weekly working time has been reduced to 40 hours. The 500,000-odd people who work on a two-shift system have a 42-hour working week.

All employed persons are entitled to a minimum paid leave of 3 weeks and 3 days. There are also regulations which shorten the working time for certain groups and lengthen the holiday allowed. In some professions with special working conditions such as mining the holiday is six to eight weeks a year. More than 1.2 million shift workers get an extra leave of between 5 and 10 days depending on the shift scheme.

The Trade Union Vacation Service is represented in 421 holiday centres. It possesses 693 holiday centres of its own and leases under contract 50 to 80 per cent of the capacity in five first-rate Interhotels and other hotels. The service cooperates with 379 restaurants of the state-owned retail organization, with cooperative organizations and private businesses and with thousands of private accommodation lessors to meet the requirements of holidaymakers. In 1985, approximately two million package holidays were arranged by the trade union's vacation service. Annually some 11,000 trade union members board the "Arkona", a cruise liner owned by the trade unions, for voyages to Cuba, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea.

The vacation service employs approximately 17,000 people to ensure high standards in satisfying the needs of holidaymakers. Recreational activities offered include social evenings, concerts, book readings, lectures, brass band music with a drink and sport.

In cooperation with the trade union organizations in other socialist countries the FDGB (Confederation of Free German Trade Unions) and individual enterprises organize international exchange programmes. 173,000 people took part in such exchanges in 1985.

The trade unions make special efforts to provide holiday facilities for families. Fifty-five per cent of all package holidays are available to families with children, with forty per cent of such family holidays organized during summer school holidays. Each year, 200,000 places are made available to large families.

Trade union members pay only 28 per cent of the actual costs of a ten-day to two-week holiday, and payment for accompanying children is only 30 marks which is about 15 per cent of the costs. Even if he goes with his family to the most luxurious holiday homes the vacationer pays only between one third and one half of his monthly income.

In addition to this, all trade union members benefit from a reduction of one third in the price of their rail ticket to and from the holiday resort.

The enterprise-run holiday centres, a major element of the union's holiday scheme, play an equally important part in providing recreation facilities to the people. Altogether, there are 72,500 enterprise-run holiday centres and facilities – ranging from bungalows, caravans, homes and campsites – which are used every year by some 3 million holidaymakers.

Holiday homes provide places for about 13,000 handicapped people with special furnishing and services to suit the particular requirements of the guests.

With a capacity of more than 549,000 individual places, the trade union is best able to satisfy people's demands for holiday and recreation facilities.

In 1985, combines and enterprises contributed a total of 355.9 million marks to the vacation service, with an additional 91.8 million marks coming from the state budget.

Holidays for schoolchildren and young people

Schoolchildren of all ages are annually offered exciting holiday opportunities.

About 5,000 **holiday camps** exist, equipped and supervised by

nationally-owned enterprises and cooperatives. Approximately two million children and young people spend a part of their summer holidays at these camps, or at one of the 50 camps of the Young Pioneer organization. Parents pay only two to four Marks weekly for each child's accommodation and food.

The Pioneer organization and educational institutions offer additional local holiday opportunities in urban neighbourhoods and villages. This form of holiday enables children to participate in sports and games at local playgrounds and schoolyards, see plays and movies and go on excursions and field days.

Youth travel

Apprentices, schoolchildren, students and young working people take advantage of reasonably-priced package holidays both in the GDR and abroad offered by "Jugendtourist", the youth travel agency of the Free German Youth. Since 1981, 6.9 million young people in the GDR have taken part in a Jugendtourist programme. In 1985, the agency organized travel for 1.9 million young people, 296,500 of whom travelled abroad. While the main destination for foreign travel was the Soviet Union, leading with 114,130 trips, holidays were offered in a total of 35 countries on four continents.

There are 246 youth hostels and 16 youth hotels with accommodation for 24,000 per night in the GDR. Schoolchildren, apprentices and students pay 25 pfennigs per night in a youth hostel. All other young people pay 50 pfennigs.

Camping is very popular among young people in the GDR. Corresponding to the growing interest in camping among young and old alike, there are now 500 campsites, including some geared specially for young people. In total, campsites can accommodate 372,000 people per night. More than 2.3 million people go on camping holidays annually. Appropriate organizations under local management look after maintenance of the sites. Almost one third of these sites are located in the district of Rostock on the Baltic Sea coast.

Outdoor activities and leisure time

About one third of the year are non-working days in the GDR. This time is usually spent on education, culture and various hobbies.

As people's demands increase, more outdoor amenities and recreation centres are established, and swimming facilities, campsites and sports centres are built or enlarged.

The number of visitors to museums, parks, sports centres, clubs, cultural centres, theatres and cinemas is high, particularly on weekends. The Palace of the Republic in Berlin is one of the favourite places for social gatherings and cultural functions. From its opening in 1976 to the end of 1985 it had hosted over 7,980 cultural events. Its theatre (known as TIP), a variety of exhibitions, concerts, dancing, discotheques and restaurants make a visit well worthwhile.

Large cultural centres will be found in all major cities of the country. These include, for example, the Culture Palace in Dresden and the civic centres in Cottbus and Karl Marx Stadt.

The GDR League of Culture, an influential mass organization, is an important forum for leisure activities. It comprises numerous interest groups, central associations and commissions (for example, the local history association, curatorships for historic monuments, groups concerned with nature and the environment, the central commissions for photography, astronomy, hiking and touring, and the philatelist and Esperanto associations). These associations offer opportunities to people of all classes and strata of society to cultivate and develop their various interests and creative abilities. Stamp and coin collecting societies and handicraft groups (such as those which make model trains, planes or ships) are expanding due to their popularity.

Literary, art, music and theatre circles are equally popular. Furthermore, many people work in organizations concerned with research on the life and work of important artists and scientists, with landscape architecture, geology, etc. Often these organizations make valuable contributions to the fields in which they work.

Finally, the internationally recognized Pirkheimer Society, an organization for book lovers, also deserves mention.

Social gatherings and concerts are among the favourite leisure activities of young people. Unstructured leisure time can be spent in one of the many youth clubs in the GDR, including the approximately 3,500 village clubs. Youth clubs organize literary and musical events, dances, and debates and discussions with scientists, artists and other figures of public life.

Many young people work in artistic groups and circles on a regular basis. These include, among others, choirs, orchestras, cabarets, photography, drawing and ceramic circles and sports groups.

Many families own gardens or country homes. The Association of Allotment Gardeners and Small Stock Breeders, the largest leisure organization in the GDR, has built small gardens close to urban residential areas. These have been allocated by local councils, mainly to working class families and those with several children. These garden areas, often complete with own restaurants and retail outlets which are open to the general public, offer varied opportunities for fulfilling leisure pursuits.

More than 1,700 of the over 10,200 allotment areas have been formally recognized as local recreation areas. The numerous garden festivals and exhibitions organized by the association prove of great interest to local residents.

Many attractively laid-out wine bars, beer parlours, coffee shops, fast food stands and restaurants are available, in which people can enjoy leisure time with friends and family.

Sport

Physical culture and sport are embodied in the Constitution as a fundamental right and are designed to "serve the all-round physical and intellectual development of citizens" (Article 18 of the Constitution). For millions of people sport and physical activity are thus a source of happiness, joy, relaxation, recreation and well-being and make a considerable contribution to their health, fitness and vitality.

The German Sports and Gymnastics Union of the GDR (DTSB)



This socialist mass organization, to which 35 sports associations are affiliated, has its roots in the antifascist and democratic sports movement and was founded in 1957. The DTSB has a total membership of around 3.6 million from all age groups, approximately 21.5 per cent of the population. More than 17,100 enterprise sports clubs, local branches of the German Anglers' Association and motor sport clubs of the German Motor Sports Association as well as more than 12,000 sports groups are open to them for practicing and training, for taking part in competitions at various levels or just for keeping fit. Members pay a monthly fee of 0.20 marks (children), 0.80 marks (young people) or 1.30 marks (adults).

The DTSB is democratic in its structure. All its officials – there are about 500,000 sports administrators – are elected at regular intervals, from the individual sports departments in the associations and clubs right up to the district and county executives and the National Executive.

In addition, about 255,000 instructors and more than 157,000 umpires and referees devote much of their free time to sport, ensuring a wide range of competitive events at all levels. For example, they are responsible for regular practice and training sessions and competitions in the enterprise sports clubs and do much to promote informal sporting activities in residential areas and holiday resorts.

Other GDR sports organizations and bodies

The State Secretariat for Physical Culture and Sports attached to the Council of Ministers is responsible for the planning and management of matters significant to the state in the fields of physical culture and sport. These include sports science, notably sports medicine, initial and in-service training for physical education teachers and the provision of the necessary equipment and technical conditions for sport to flourish.

The National Olympic Committee (NOC) is the guardian of the Olympic movement in the German Democratic Republic. It represents the interests of the GDR athletes in the International Olympic movement and ensures their participation in the Olympic Games. The NOC of the GDR collaborates in this capacity with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the organizing committees of the Olympic Games, the NOCs of other countries and other bodies belonging to the international Olympic movement. Its members include proven sports administrators; the presidents of the sports associations and successful Olympic athletes.

The Society for the Promotion of the Olympic Idea in the GDR is spreading the Olympic idea among the people and sees to it that Olympic principles are observed and respected. For this purpose

it organizes exhibitions, events, competitions etc. and publishes information material. The society receives the support of many sport enthusiasts and gives financial support to the GDR's Olympic teams to help them buy equipment.

The Society for Sports and Technical Pursuits (GST) is an organization where interested young people may go in for such technical sports as motor sport, aviation, parachuting, shooting, telecommunications and the construction of model aeroplanes, railways, ships etc.

Sport for everybody – main concern of the DTSB of the GDR

In the GDR, as in many other countries, there is a growing demand for regular physical activity. Therefore, the German Sports and Gymnastics Union has made it one of its most important tasks to satisfy this demand ever more effectively. As a socialist mass organization the DTSB has set itself the aim of providing more and better sporting facilities for everybody, i.e. for more and more children, young people and adults.

In its efforts the DTSB collaborates closely with the trade unions (FDGB) and the youth organization (FDJ). Together with the FDGB and the FDJ, it has, for example, sponsored a joint programme aimed mainly at recreational and leisure sports and thus succeeded in attracting increasing numbers of working people and apprentices.

In order to get as many girls and women involved in regular sport in residential areas and villages and to encourage them to participate in various forms of sporting events or hiking, the DTSB concluded an agreement in 1984 with the Women's Democratic Federation of Germany (DFD).

Among the large number of ideas and initiatives it is the various forms of mass competition which have gained particularly in popularity. DTSB membership is not essential for participation in these events. Special highlights are the Mile Run, nation-wide table ten-

nis and volleyball tournaments, the family competition sponsored by the Für Dich magazine and the annual apprentice competition to determine the strongest boy and most athletic girl. Aerobics is particularly popular among girls and women who enjoy doing simple physical exercises to the sound of modern pop music.

Other highlights are enterprise sports festivals or contests organized at local or district level. By taking part in competitions for the "Sports Badge of the GDR" everyone is able to test out their physical capability, which is assessed according to sex, age and certain norms. Every year the sports badge is awarded to millions of people in either gold, silver or bronze upon fulfillment of the required standards.

In urban neighbourhoods, and to an increasing extent in smaller communities, ever better sporting opportunities are being provided thanks to new swimming baths, sport centres and other public facilities for soccer, volleyball, basketball, bowling, table tennis and athletics. The FDGB holiday service and the FDJ are helping to improve the opportunities for involvement in mass sports at holiday resorts, camping sites and youth clubs.

The holding of major gymnastics and sports festivals is a tradition of the German workers' sports movement. In 1987 Leipzig will be the venue for the 8th Sports and Gymnastics Festival and the 11th Spartakiad Children's and Youth Games.

The 1987 Sports Festival in Leipzig, which will as ever be held under the patronage of the GDR's head of state, will carry on the tradition of previous festivals and feature impressive mass gymnastics displays and a great variety of sporting competitions and cultural events.

During the run-up to the Sports and Gymnastics Festival millions of people will once again take part in mass competitions in such sports as table tennis, volleyball, bowling, fist ball, cross-country or sport for the disabled in order to qualify for the final round in Leipzig.

Sport for the young

Youth and sport are inseparable. Therefore, the DTSB, the youth organization, the Young Pioneer organization as well as the education and vocational training authorities attach particular importance to sport for youngsters and children.

Even in the kindergarten, sports and games are a firm part of the daily timetable. Children do physical exercises and take part in simple competitions which respond to their urge to move. By means of such activities they are prepared for PE lessons at school.

Sport is a compulsory subject in the curriculum of the general ten-year school and is treated on an equal footing with other subjects. Depending on their age, pupils attend two or three PE lessons a week. In grade 5, for example, the teaching programme includes the techniques and tactics of team handball, and in higher grades pupils are trained in high jump. The PE teachers apply varied forms and methods so that every child keeps on moving as long as possible during the lessons.

All seven- to ten-year-olds learn to swim under the supervision of swimming instructors. Therefore, public indoor swimming pools are reserved for schoolchildren in the morning hours. At places where no such pools exist, the pupils are taken to the next indoor swimming pool once a month. That day they have the opportunity to swim for several hours. During summer also outdoor pools and lakes are used for swimming lessons. To put it in a nutshell, one rarely comes across a child who cannot swim by the age of ten. As with all other forms of training at school, swimming instruction is also free of charge.

In addition, the school sports clubs and sports clubs of the DTSB offer the boys and girls a wide choice of sporting activities and leisure pursuits outside school.

The youth organization has played a major role in the development of physical culture and sport in the GDR. Together with the trade unions, FDJ groups in enterprises encourage a lively interest

in regular sporting activity among apprentices and young skilled workers. Challenge trophies presented by the FDGB, the FDJ and the Pioneer organization are contested every year.

Every year tens of thousands of boys and girls take part in the Spartakiad Children's and Youth Games. The competitions in almost every event begin with preliminary school heats, in which as many children and adolescents as possible should participate. By reaching a certain standard, the schoolchildren can qualify for annual competitions at district level. County and National Spartakiad Games take place every two years for both winter and summer sports events. The last Spartakiad Games were held in Oberhof in the winter of 1985 and in the summer of the same year in Berlin. About 1,300 competitors took part in the winter sports events, and in the summer games there were up to 12,000 entries. Many new talents are discovered in this way. Olympic, World and European champions often began their sporting careers at the Spartakiad and were not always the victors.

The GDR's Spartakiad movement represents the realisation of two aspects of the same thing, namely the all-round and harmonious development of the younger generation. On the one hand, the overwhelming majority of children and adolescents engage in regular and organized sporting activities, and on the other hand especially talented girls and boys can be spotted and encouraged.

They can, for example, with their parents' consent exercise and train in a training centre, later on attend one of the children and youth sports schools and develop their talents to the full in sports and soccer clubs whilst at the same time not neglecting their academic and vocational training. Guidance and care for such young people are provided by qualified and experienced coaches, teachers, tutors, sports doctors, administrators and scientists.

Some of them who so wish are given the opportunity to take up study lasting several years at the German College of Physical Culture in Leipzig. A number of outstanding GDR athletes have gradu-

ated from this sports college which was founded in 1950. Until 1985 about 16,000 full-time or part-time students completed their studies here, who today are working as P.E. teachers, coaches, sports administrators or in the field of sports science.

Dedicated to the Olympic ideal

The immortal ideas of the great advocate of sport and international understanding, Pierre Baron de Coubertin, notably to use sports as a vehicle for the all-round education of the younger generation and a contribution to life in peace, have become characteristic features of the development of physical culture and sports in the GDR.

For many years the DTSB has maintained a host of international sporting ties. The bonds with the Soviet athletes are particularly strong. The cooperation is based on a friendship treaty between the sporting organizations of the GDR and the USSR. Similar agreements have been signed with the sporting organizations of other socialist countries.

In order to promote sport as a means of achieving international understanding and preserving peace, the GDR has entered into treaties or agreements with the executives of sport organizations in other countries. The GDR has sporting contacts with nearly 100 countries.

This cooperation includes the exchange of ideas. Thus every year delegations made up of leading sports officials from many countries visit the GDR in order to study the development of physical culture and sport and to sign agreements with the executive of the GDR sports organization.

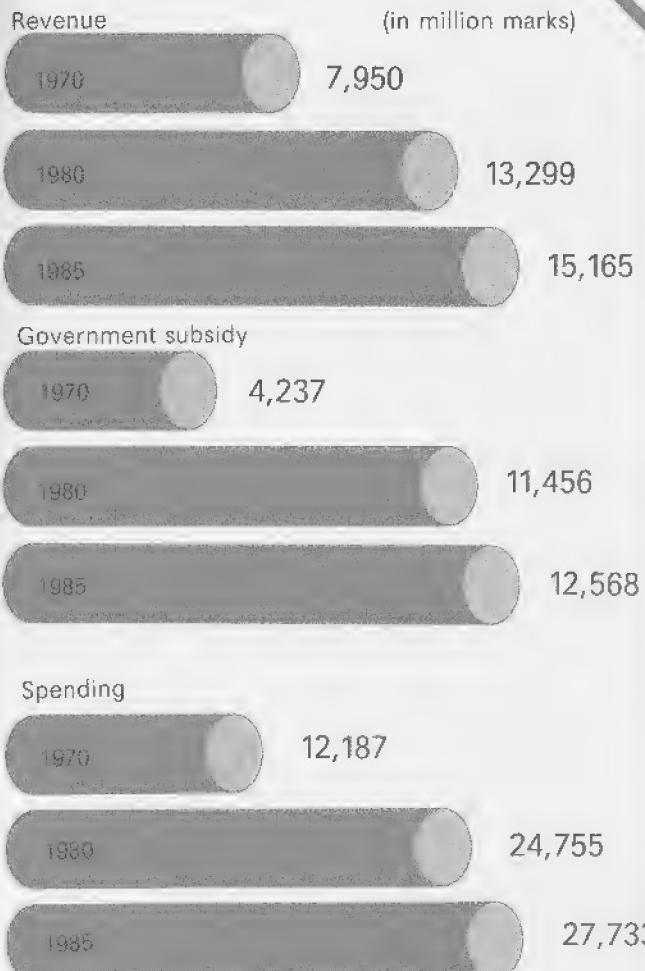
To date about 2,000 future P.E. teachers and sports administrators from 88 countries have been trained at the German College of Physical Culture in Leipzig. In this way the GDR is making an active contribution to the "Olympic Solidarity" programme of the IOC. Therefore it is not by chance that the college is called "College of International Friendship".

Since 1956, when GDR athletes took part in Olympic Games for the first time, competitors of this country have stood on the victor's rostrum at every one of the Olympic Games, winning 445 medals.

Health



Revenue and spending of social insurance scheme for workers and salaried employees



Health services

Public spending on health and social services (in '000 million marks), pensions not included

1970	1980	1985
5.9	9.5	12.1

Doctors, dentists and pharmacists

	1970	1980	1985
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Doctors	27,255	33,894	37,943
Dentists	7,349	9,709	11,757
Pharmacists	2,885	3,549	3,783

Per 10,000 population

Doctors	16	20	22
Dentists	4	6	7
Pharmacists	2	2	2

Outpatient facilities

	1970	1980	1985
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Health centres	452	561	590
Outpatient departments	828	969	999
State-owned medical practices	1,301	1,645	1,602
State-owned dental practices	680	971	925
District nurses' posts	4,716	5,279	5,463

Average life expectancy

	1952	1980	1985
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Women	68	75	75
Men	64	69	70

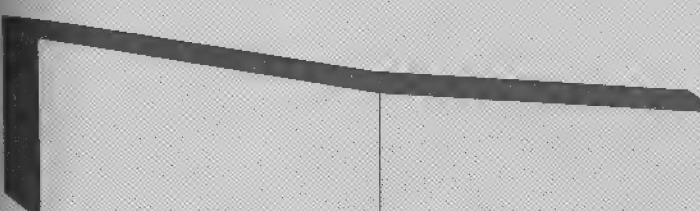
Courses in spa treatment

In 1985, over 360,000 spa treatment courses were prescribed, of which:

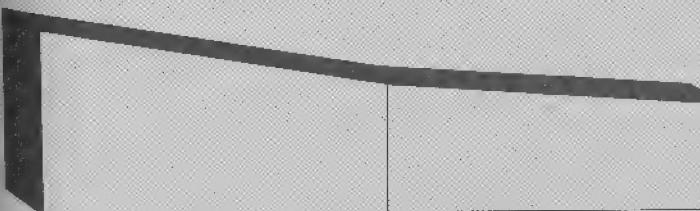
- two-thirds were for workers, one quarter of these for shift-workers
- more than half were for women

Infant and maternal mortality

	1970	1980	1985
Infant mortality per '000 live births	18.5	12.1	9.6



Maternal mortality per 10,000 live births	4.3	2.3	1.7
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Immunization schedule

Age	Type of immunization
First week	Tuberculosis (BCG)
From third month to end of 1st year	Polio (vaccine administered orally in three doses at intervals of 4 weeks against the three different types of virus)
Third month	First vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus
Fourth month	Second vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus
Fifth month	Third vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus
Thirteenth month	Measles
Second year	Polio (trivalent vaccine administered orally)
Third year	Fourth vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus
Eighth year	Polio (trivalent vaccine administered orally)

Eighth year	Diphtheria and tetanus
Sixteenth year	Tetanus
Sixteenth year	Tuberculin test, possible vaccination against tuberculosis

Illnesses in which the number of cases has declined significantly

Infectious diseases that were once common and dangerous have been eliminated or controlled in the GDR. Cases of small pox, polio, diphtheria and tetanus no longer occur, while the incidence of tuberculosis, measles, typhoid and paratyphoid, infectious hepatitis and whooping cough has declined considerably. Less than one per cent of all deaths in the GDR are caused by infectious diseases.

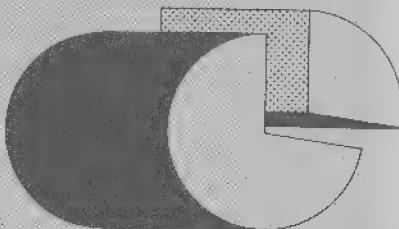
Number of new occurrences	1970	1985
Tuberculosis	10,306	3,000
Infectious hepatitis	18,633	2,939
Whooping cough	7,136	305
Measles	29,193	730

Holidays, leisure time and recreation

Financing of holidays under the trade union scheme

Subsidies financed from funds under enterprise or central management and from membership dues
72 per cent

Portion to be paid by individual union members
28 per cent



Holidays in 1985

More than 12 million people went on holiday.

Trade union holiday service	1.9 million
Enterprise-run holiday service	3.1 million
GDR Travel Agency	0.6 million
Youth travel agency and other holidays organized for children and young adults	1.2 million

Private travel
(including camping holidays and foreign travel) 5.6 million

Allotment gardens

Between 1981 and 1985, some 96,000 allotment gardens were created, which is an 80 per cent increase compared with the figure for the 1976-80 period.

64,024 gardens, i.e. 66.6 per cent of the total, were allocated to working class and large families.

The Association of Allotment Gardeners and Small Stock Breeders has a total membership of some 1,359,000.

Growing demand for knowledge

URANIA is a public organization responsible for the dissemination of scientific findings. It has 53,600 members. Overall participation in the 1.9 million events it organized between 1981 and 1985 (lectures, fora, excursions) stood at some 60 million people.

Restaurants and public houses

The GDR currently has over 26,000 restaurants and public houses run by the state, consumer cooperatives and private individuals. They cater for some 3.7 million people daily.

Between 1981 and 1985 some 9,000 restaurants were modernized, and 2,000 of these redesigned from top to bottom.

Sport

The most popular sports in 1985

(number of those participating in the respective sport, thousands)

Soccer	580	Team handball	161
Angling	515	Volleyball	127
Gymnastics	398	Table tennis	125
Ninepins	205	Swimming	86
Athletics	189	Motoring	81

Number of sports facilities opened between 1971 and 1985:

6,789 (total)

among them

2,207 sports grounds

2,516 gyms

106 indoor swimming pools

Number of Sports Badges of the GDR awarded (millions)

1970	1980	1985
1.0	3.7	4.0

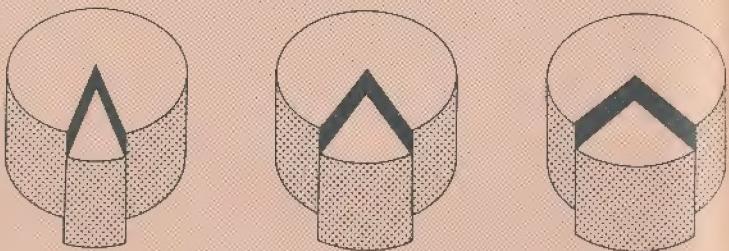
German Sports and Gymnastics Union of the GDR (DTSB)

Membership (millions)

1970	1980	1985
2.2	3.1	3.6

Percentage of population

1970	1980	1985
12.3	18.8	21.4

**Competitive sports**

Medals won by GDR athletes at World and European Championships between 1981 and 1985

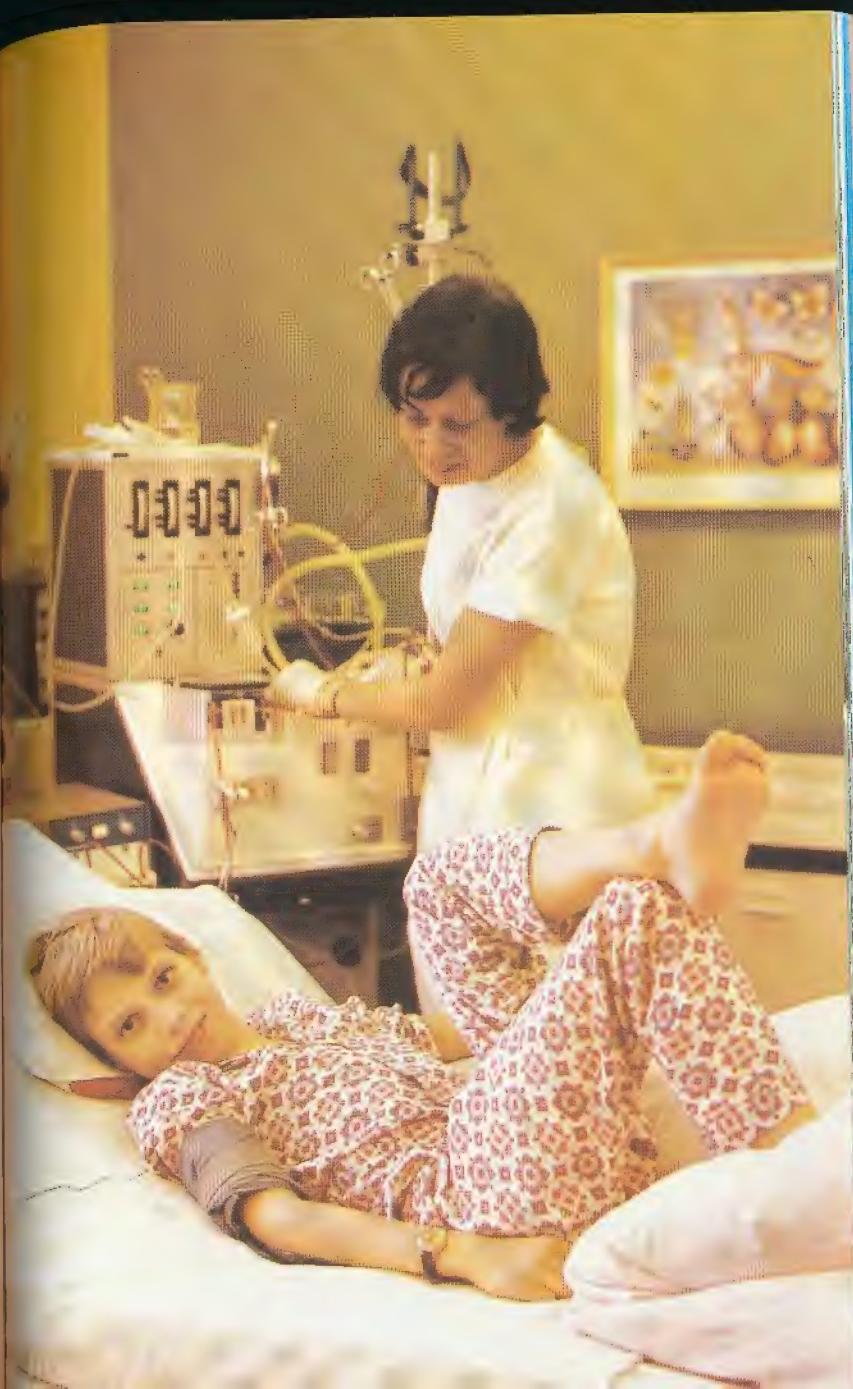
Gold	Silver	Bronze
301	283	226

Over the same period GDR athletes set

- 86 world records
- 90 European records

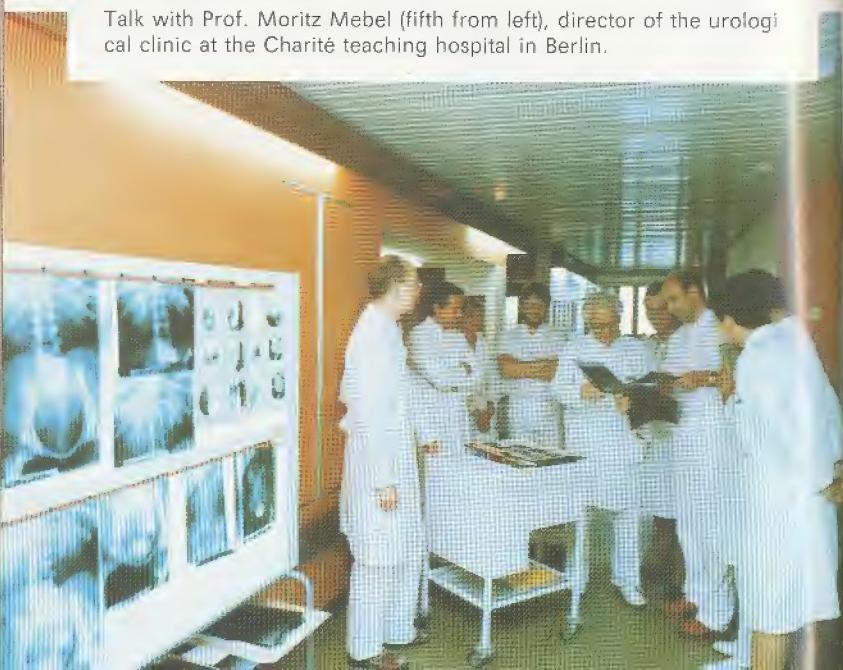
Children and youth sports

- In 1985, four out of five people between 6 and 18 years were members of school sports associations or sports associations of the DTSB.
- Between 1981 and 1985, about one million girls and boys took part in the annual Children's and Youth Spartakiad Games at district level.





Magdeburg Medical School carries out neurological tests using computerized tomography.

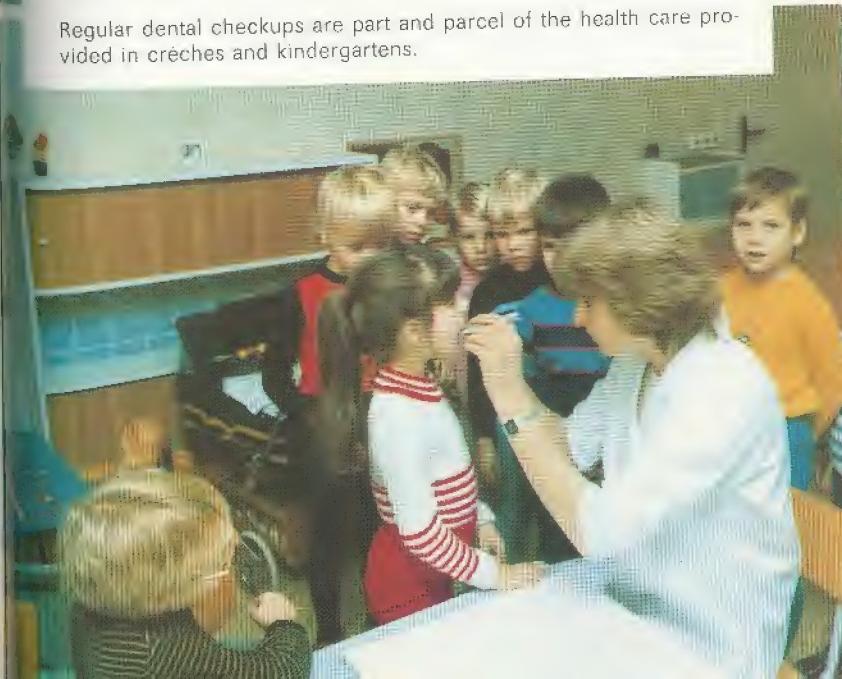


Talk with Prof. Moritz Mebel (fifth from left), director of the urological clinic at the Charité teaching hospital in Berlin.



Outpatient clinic in the village of Priborn.

Regular dental checkups are part and parcel of the health care provided in crèches and kindergartens.





99 per cent of mothers have their babies in hospital, all services being free of charge.

Regular health checks on senior citizens is a major facet of the health service.



Preventive examinations help keep people in good shape.

The spa facilities in Bad Elster are used by 34,000 patients a year.

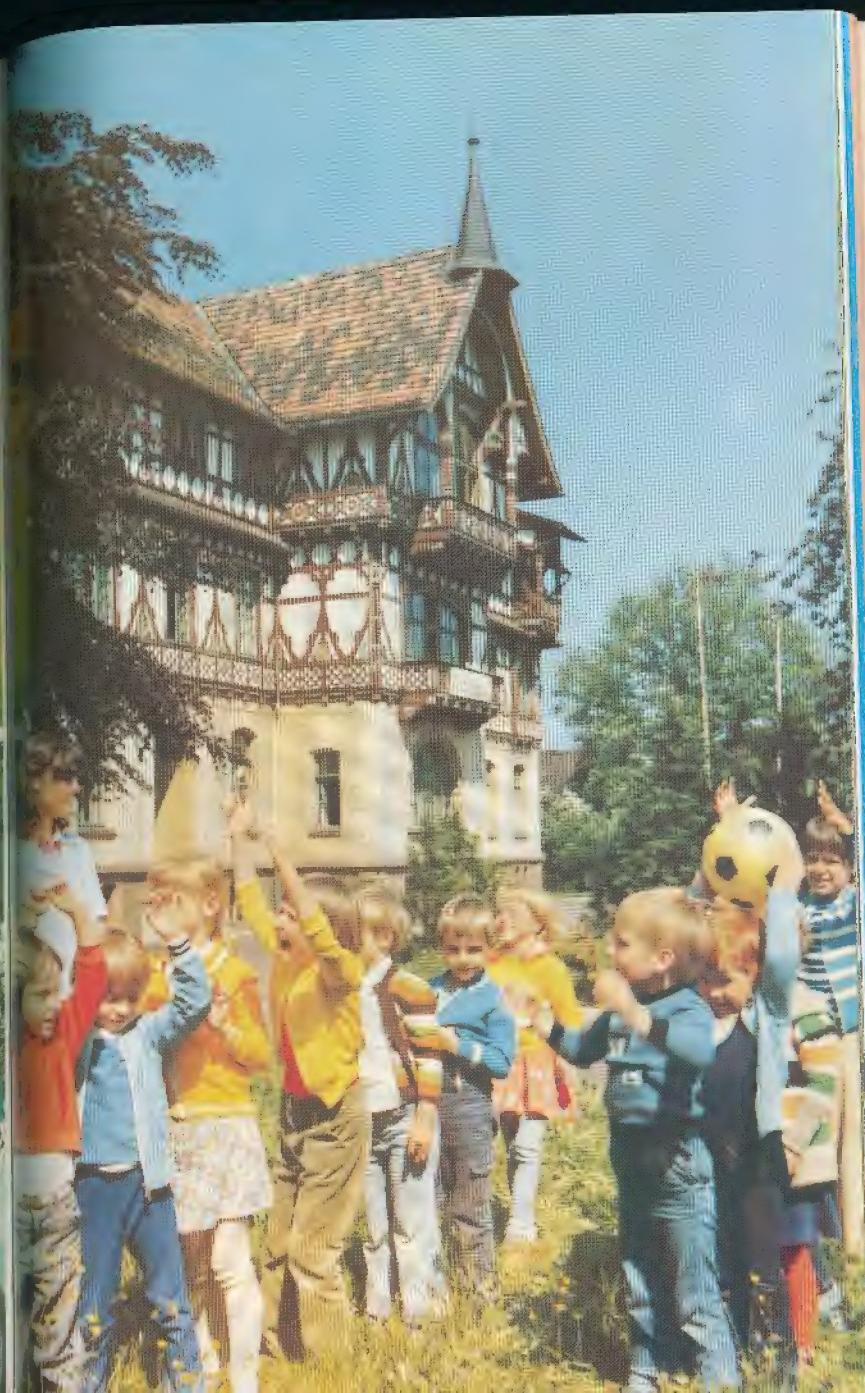




The physically and mentally handicapped receive special medical care.

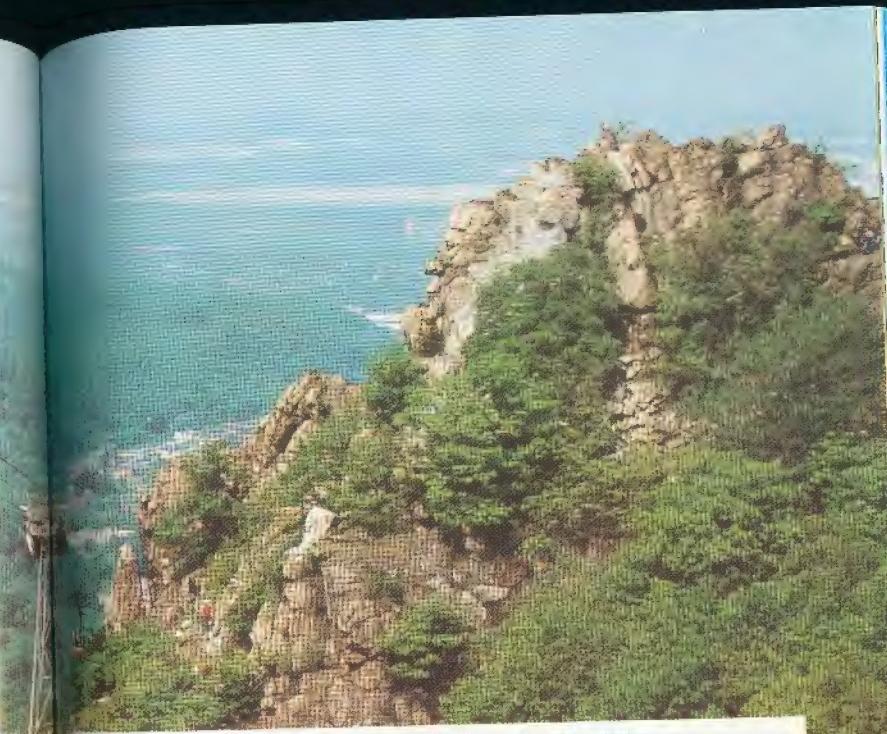


Children's sanatorium in Bad Salzungen. This establishment specializes in diseases of the respiratory system. (right)

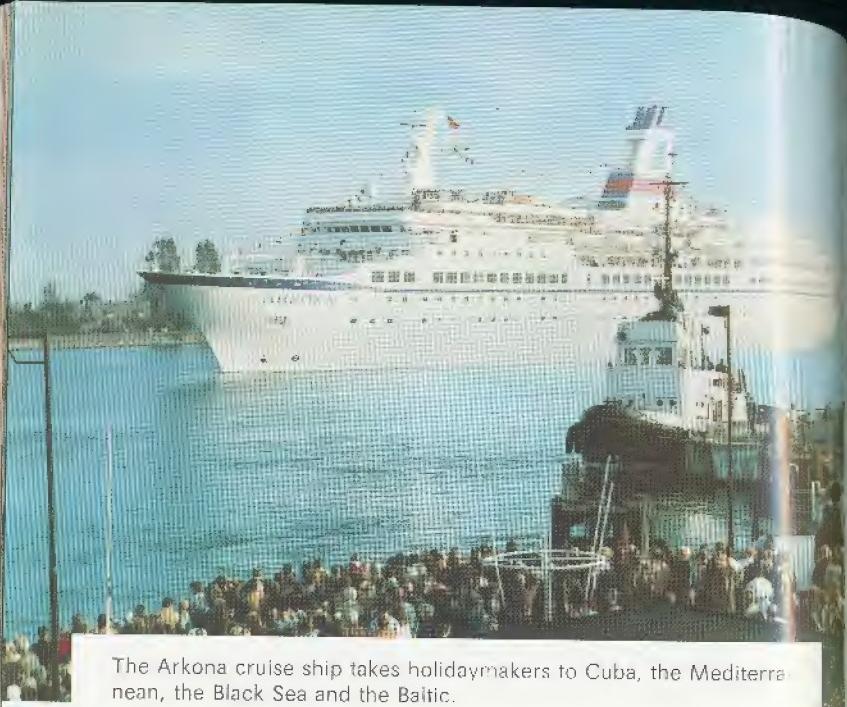




Sleigh rides through the Thuringian Forest are popular with holiday-makers.



Erich Weinert holiday home in Heringsdorf on the Baltic.
Cable car at Thale in the Harz mountains. (above)



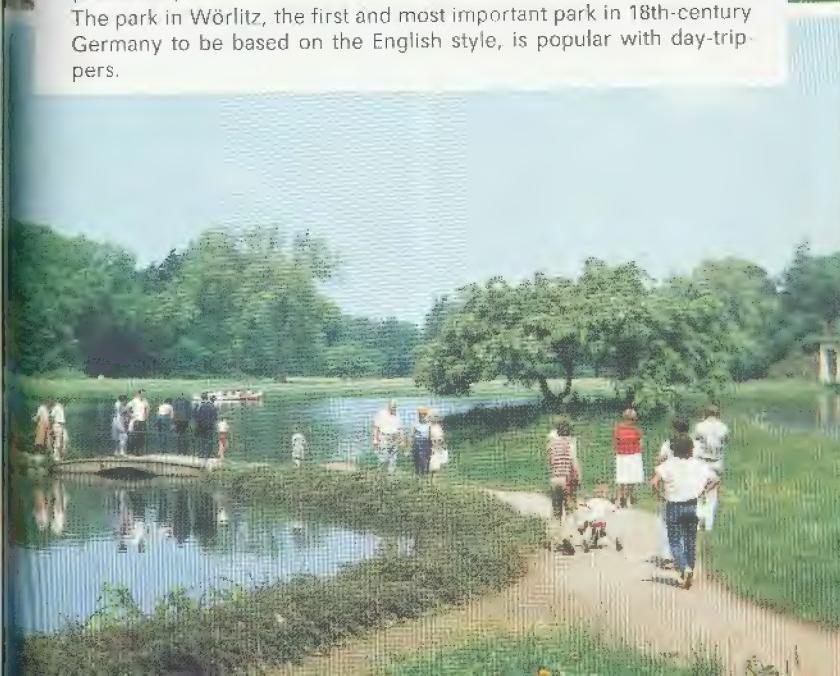
The Arkona cruise ship takes holidaymakers to Cuba, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Baltic.

Holiday with plenty to do at the international campsite in Meyersgrund, Thuringia. (below)



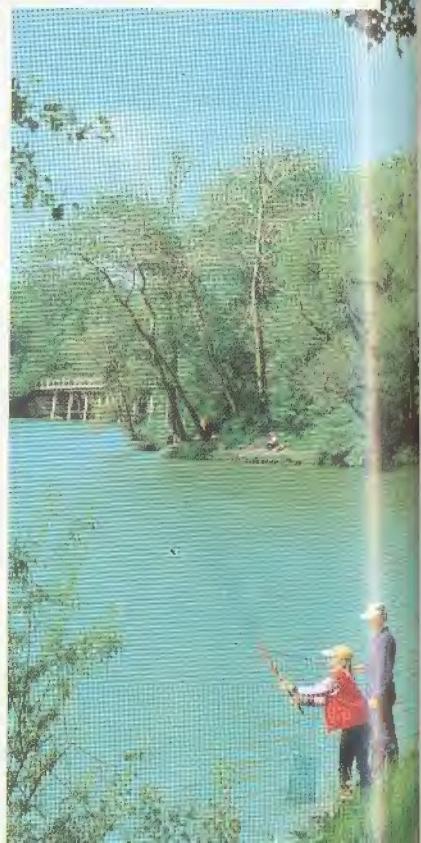
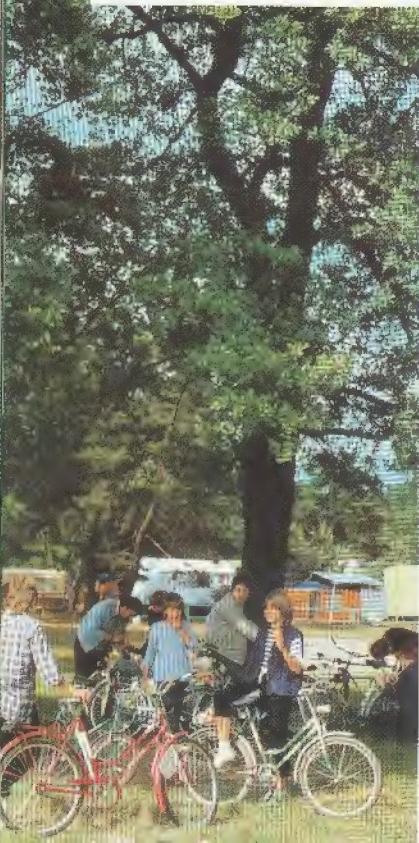
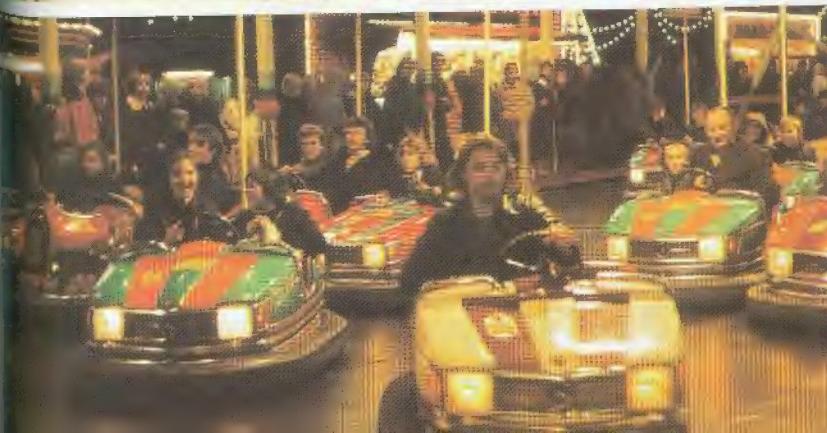
Saxon Switzerland, a favourite among the rock climbing fraternity. (above left)

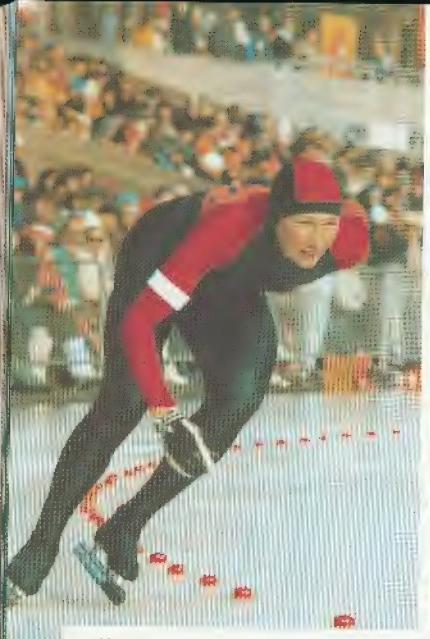
The park in Wörlitz, the first and most important park in 18th-century Germany to be based on the English style, is popular with day-trippers.



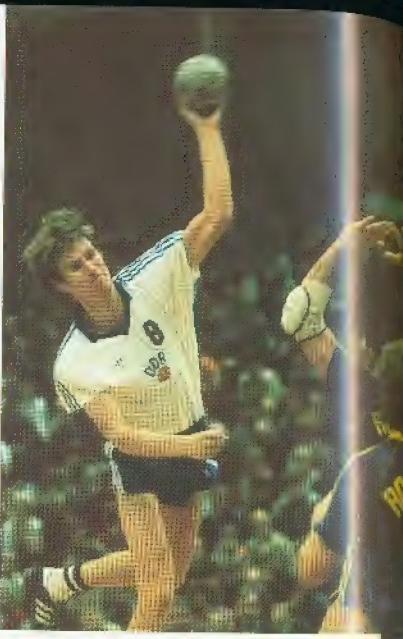


Recreation mosaic

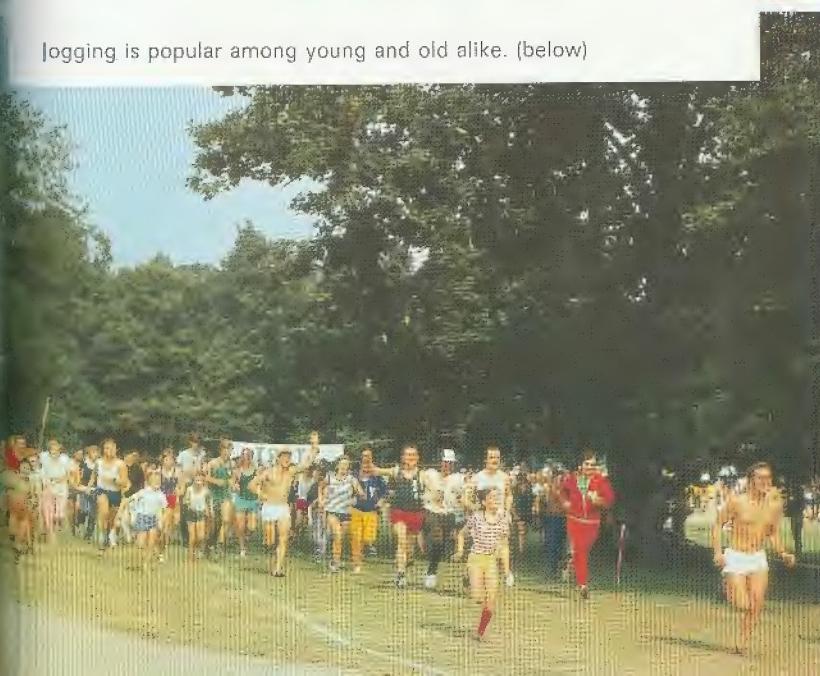
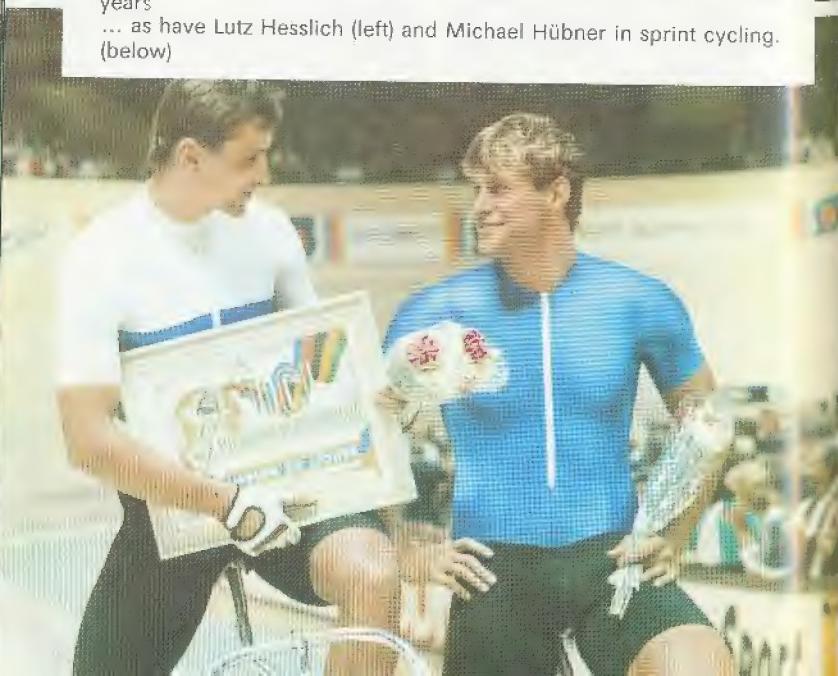




Karin Kania, several times Olympic and world champion.
The GDR handball team has been among the world's best for many years
... as have Lutz Hesslich (left) and Michael Hübner in sprint cycling.
(below)



Junior ski jumping tournament at the Spartakiad. (above)



Jogging is popular among young and old alike. (below)

Topography

Area: 108,333 sq. km. (41,827 sq. miles).

Borders: Baltic Sea in the north. Polish People's Republic in the east (length: 460 km or 286 miles), Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the southeast (454 km or 282 miles), and Federal Republic of Germany in the southwest (1,378 km or 856 miles).

Capital: Berlin (pop. 1.2 million).

Other major cities: (population in '000) Leipzig 556, Dresden 520, Karl Marx Stadt 317, Magdeburg 289, Rostock 242, Halle 236, Erfurt 215, Potsdam 138, Gera 131, Schwerin 126, Cottbus 123, Zwickau 120, Jena 107, Dessau 104.

Administrative structure: 15 counties, 191 districts and 36 urban districts.

Longest river: the Elbe (556 km in GDR territory).

Largest lake: Müritz (115 sq. km. or 44.4 sq. miles).

Largest island: Rügen (926 sq. km. or 357.5 sq. miles).

Highest elevation: Fichtelberg (1,214 metres or 3,983 ft.).

Use of land: 58 per cent farmland (arable land, pastures, meadowland or gardens); 27 per cent forest, 13 per cent built-up areas, roads, waterbodies and barren land.

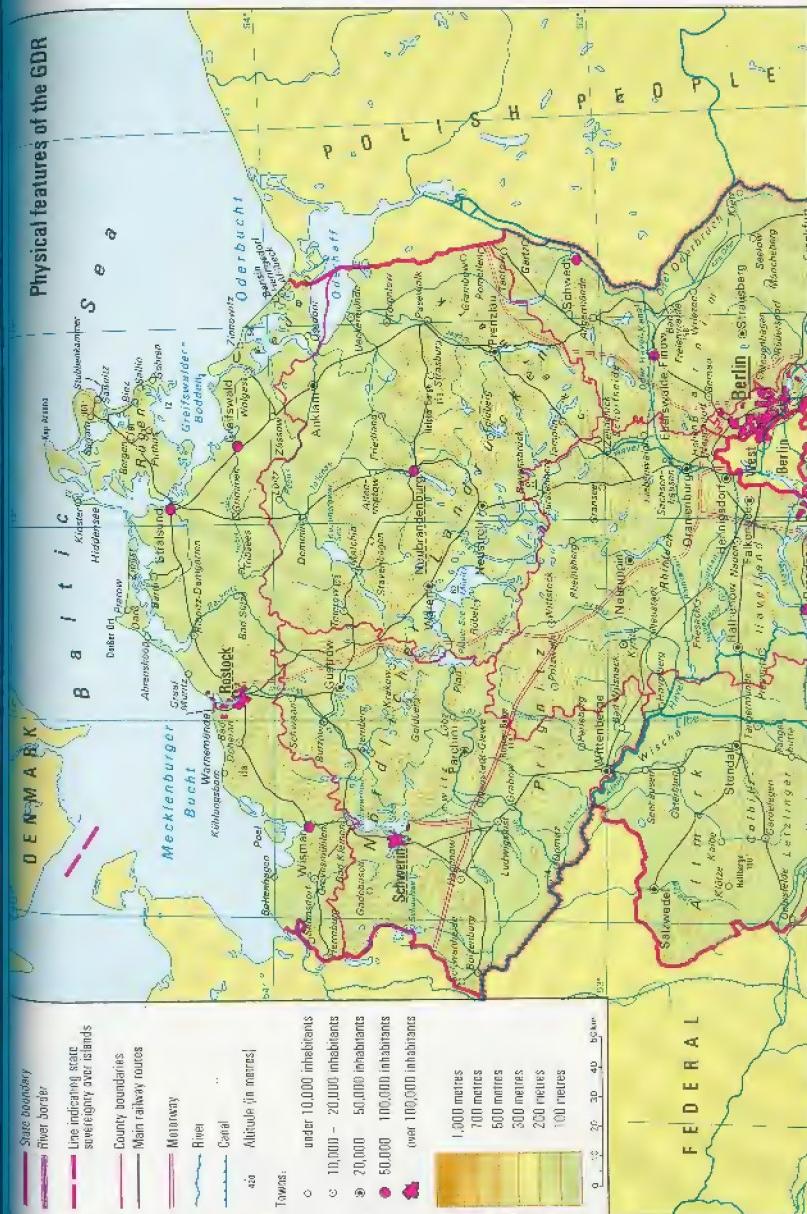
Population

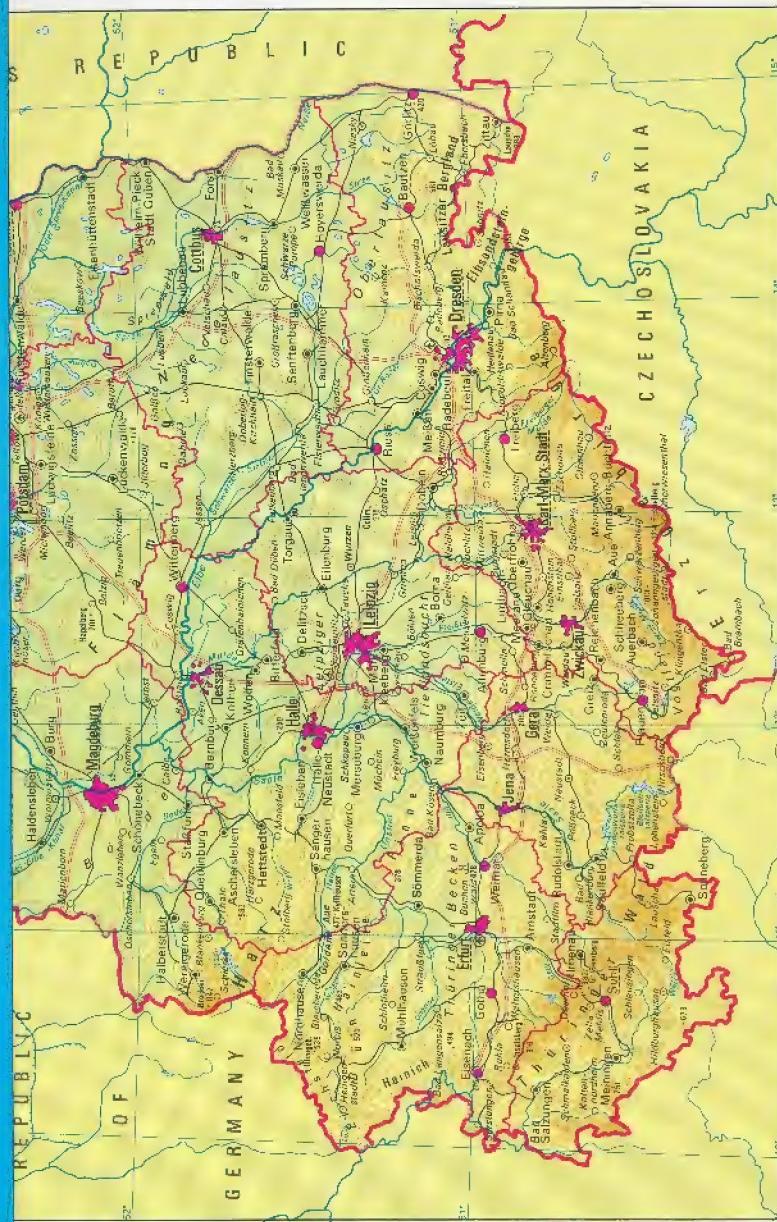
Population: 16.7 million, of which 53 per cent are female and 47 per cent male.

Population density: 154 inhabitants per sq. km. (399 per sq. mile).

Age distribution: 64 per cent of the population is of working age (women between 15 and 60, and men between 15 and 65 years of age). 19 per cent are children, and 17 per cent are of retirement age.

Settlement structure: 75 per cent of the population lives in urban areas, 25 per cent in rural communities. Located in the midst of the GDR is West Berlin, a city whose political status is defined under the Quadripartite Agreement signed by the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain.





- 1 Natural History Museum
 2 Brecht House
 3 Charité Teaching Hospital
 4 GDR Academy of Arts
 5 Deutsches Theater and Kammer-spiele theatres
 6 Club of the artistic workers' union
 7 Berliner Ensemble
 8 Friedrichstadtspielhaus variety theatre and night club
 9 Synagogue
 10 Sophienkirche
 11 Distel cabaret and Metropol theatre
 12 International Trade Centre
 13 Hotel Metropol
 14 Robert Koch Museum
 15 Brandenburg Gate
 16 Soviet Embassy
 17 Komische Oper
 18 Unter den Linden hotel
 19 German State Library
 20 Humboldt University
 21 German State Opera/Alte Bibliothek/Bebelplatz
 22 St Hedwig's Cathedral
 23 Memorial to the victims of fascism and militarism
 24 Maxim Gorki Theatre
 25 Central House of German-Soviet Friendship
 26 Museum of German History
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 31 Johannes R. Becher club for cultural workers
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 34 Spittelmarkt
 35 Bode Museum
 36 Pergamon Museum
 37 National Gallery
 38 Altes Museum
 39 Berlin Cathedral
 40 Palace of the Republic
 41 Seat of the GDR Council of State
 42 SED Central Committee building/Berlin SED Committee
 43 Berlin City Library/Ribbeck House
 44 Mühlendammsluice
 45 Ermeler Haus restaurant/Otto Nagel House
 46 Märkisches Museum/Berlin bears
 47 Palasthotel
 48 Marx Engels Forum
 49 Historic heart of the city/Nikolaikirche
 50 Marienkirche
 51 TV tower/Berlin tourist information and exhibition centre
 52 Berlin City Hall/Council headquarters and meeting-place of the city assembly
 53 GDR Council of Ministers building
 54 Ruin of Franciscan monastery church
 55 Young People's cultural centre
 56 Volksbühne theatre
 57 CENTRUM department store
 58 Hotel Stadt Berlin
 59 GDR Travel Agency/INTERFLUG office
 60 Teachers' Centre/Congress Hall
 61 Hotel Berolina/International cinema
 62 Monument to Polish soldiers and German antifascists
 63 Märchenbrunnen fountain
 64 Monument to the German section of the International Brigades
 65 Cemetery for those who died in the March 1848 revolution
 66 Monument to Lenin
 67 Sport and Recreation Centre

- Underground railway
- Suburban electric railway
- Restaurant
- Theatre
- Museum/Exhibition rooms
- Library
- Travel agency
- State border

Topography

Area: 108,333 sq. km. (41,827 sq. miles).
Neighbours: Baltic Sea in the north, Polish People's Republic in the east (length: 460 km or 286 miles), Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the southeast (454 km or 282 miles), and Federal Republic of Germany in the southwest (1,378 km or 855 miles).

Major cities: (population in '000) Berlin (pop. 1.2 million), Karl Marx Stadt 317, Magdeburg 289, Rostock 242, Halle 215, Potsdam 138, Gera 131, Schwerin 128, Cottbus 120, Jena 107, Dessau 104.

Administrative structure: 15 counties, 191 districts and 36 urban districts.
Longest river: the Elbe (556 km in GDR territory).

Other major rivers: Oder (360 km), Neisse (330 km), Mulde (310 km), Saale (290 km), Elster (270 km), Havel (260 km), Spree (250 km), Elbe (250 km), Elster (240 km), Saale (230 km), Oder (220 km), Elster (210 km), Elbe (200 km), Elster (190 km), Elster (180 km), Elster (170 km), Elster (160 km), Elster (150 km), Elster (140 km), Elster (130 km), Elster (120 km), Elster (110 km), Elster (100 km), Elster (90 km), Elster (80 km), Elster (70 km), Elster (60 km), Elster (50 km), Elster (40 km), Elster (30 km), Elster (20 km), Elster (10 km), Elster (0 km).

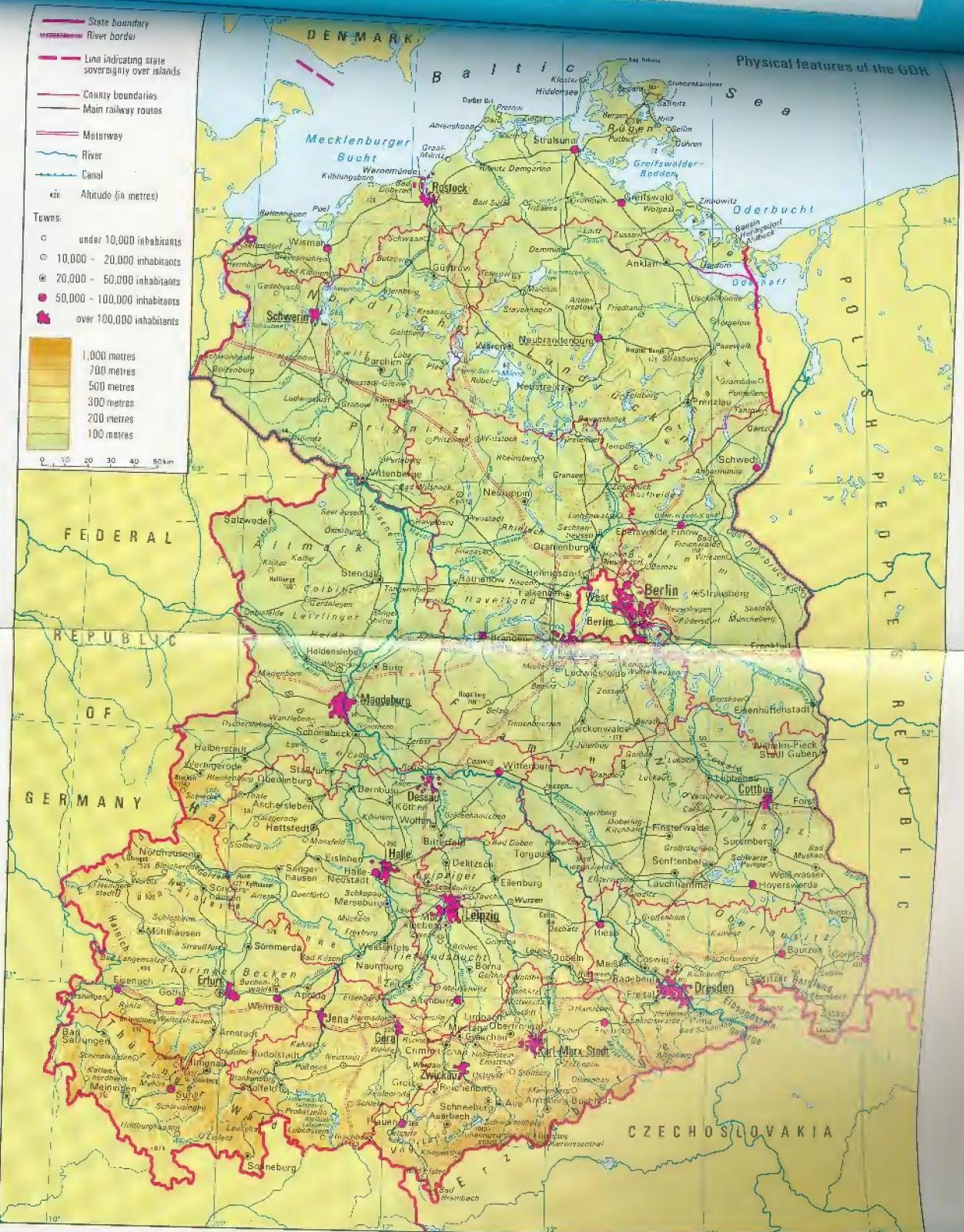
Lowest point: Müritz (115 sq. km. or 44.4 sq. miles).
Highest elevation: Fichtelberg (1,214 metres or 3,983 ft.).

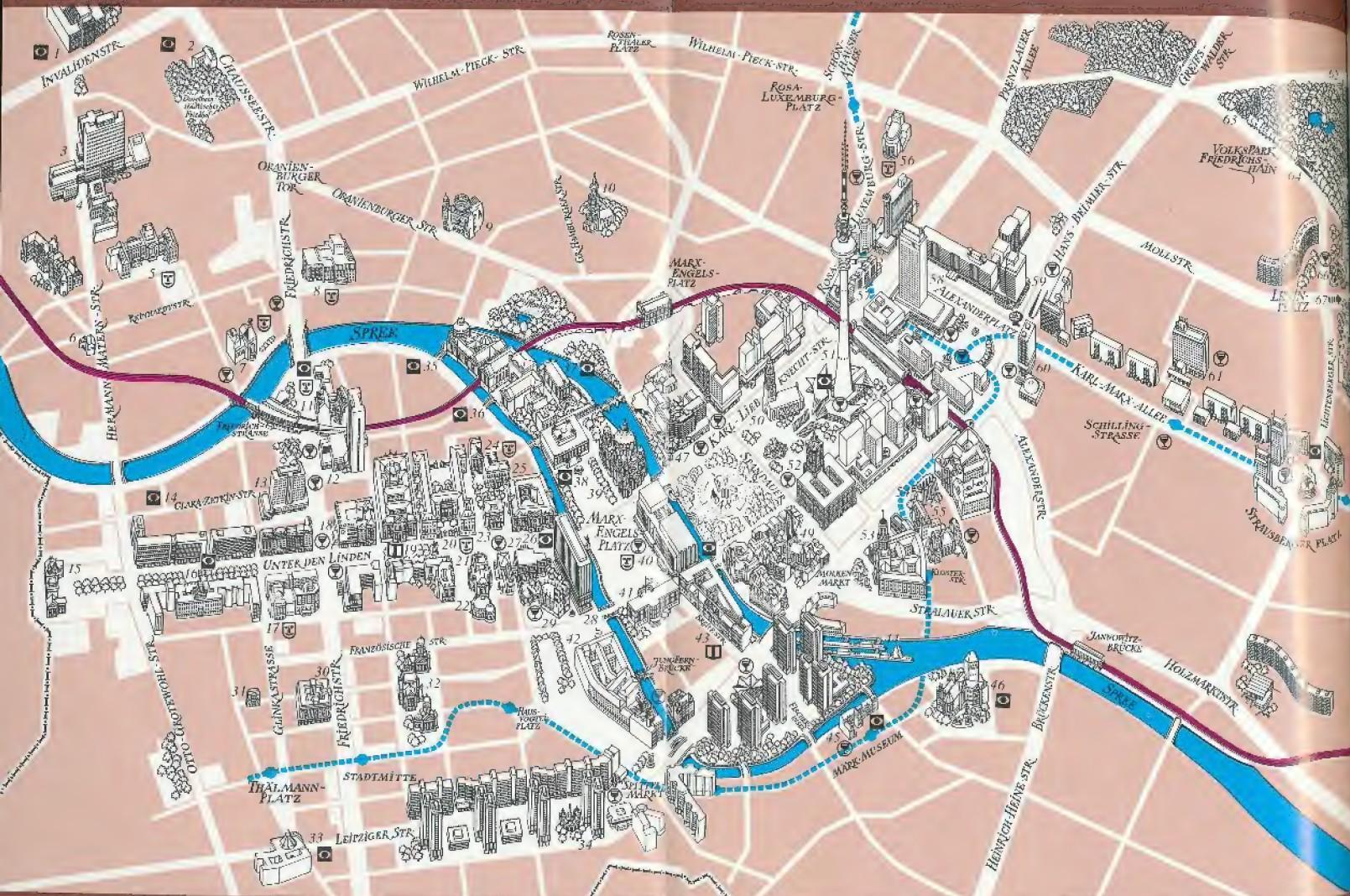
Land use: 58 per cent farmland (arable land, pastures, meadows or gardens); 27 per cent forest; 13 per cent built-up areas, roads, waterbodies and barren land.

Population: 16.7 million, of which 53 per cent are female and 47 per cent male.
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Age distribution: 64 per cent of the population is of working age, 19 per cent are children, and 17 per cent are of retirement age.

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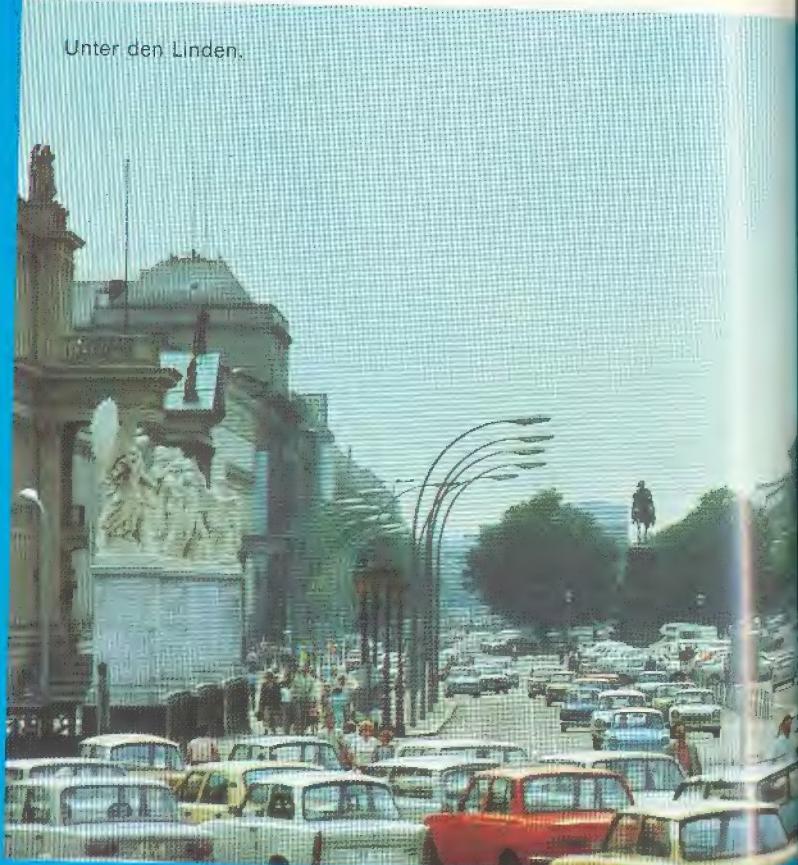




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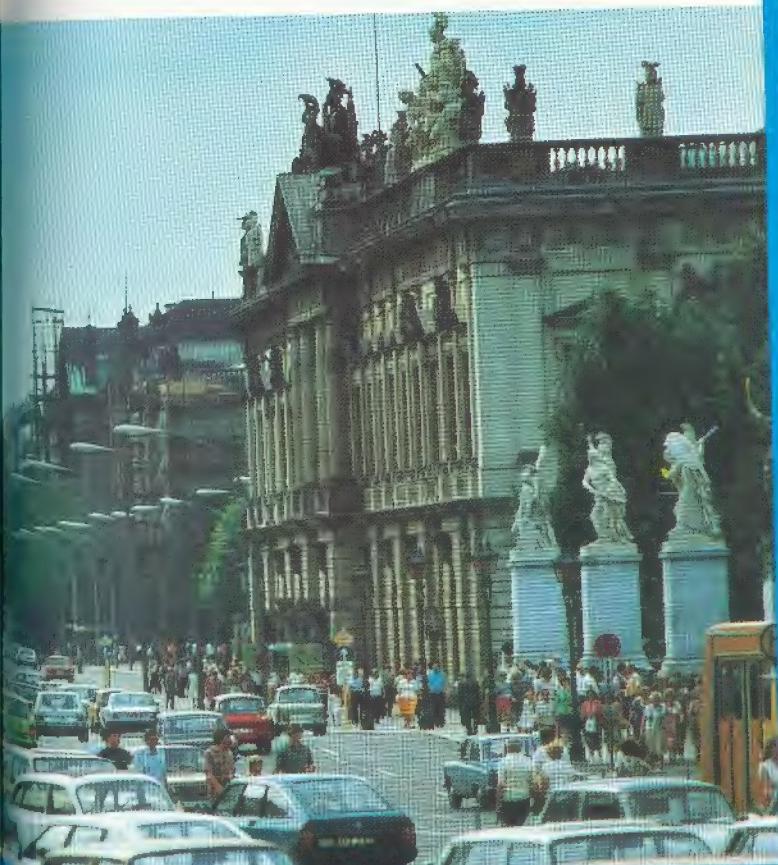
BERLIN, capital of the GDR

Unter den Linden.



The history of Berlin stretches back 750 years. First mentioned in documents as the fishermen's village Cölln in 1237 and the merchants' village Berlin in 1244, both settlements merged into one community in 1307. The area of this former double town is situated on both sides of the river Spree in the city centre not far away from Marx Engels Platz.

The rest of its history was marked by many changes: first of all, Berlin joined the Hanseatic League, a powerful alliance of



medieval towns on the coasts of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, became the seat of the Electoral Prince of the Mark Brandenburg in the middle of the 15th century, was declared the capital of the new Prussian Empire in 1701, and later on became the capital of the new Prussian German Empire in 1871. Due to Berlin's favourable position for traffic, an increasing number of industries developed here from the beginning of the 19th century. Thus Berlin became one of the most important industrial cities on the European continent. The working class was growing rapidly. In 1920, more than four million people were living here. Whereas the ruling bourgeoisie lived in exclusive residential areas, the working masses were crammed into squalid dwellings and tenement houses which were only accessible through the courtyard and were almost never lit by the sun. Thus Berlin became the world's biggest city of tenement houses.

The deep social contradictions in the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century turned the city into the scene of powerful revolutionary struggles of the working class and its allies. From this time onwards the struggle between progress and reaction became the decisive element in the course of history. Twice – in 1914 and 1939 – devastating world wars emanated from Berlin.

The smashing of fascism by the Soviet Union and her allies united within the Anti-Hitler Coalition offered liberated Berlin an historic opportunity to break out of the vicious circle of crisis and war.

When on 2 May 1945 the guns fell silent, Berlin was nothing but a heap of rubble. About 50,000 out of the 245,000 pre-war buildings had been destroyed completely. There was no water, no electricity, no gas. Food was lacking, and there was a danger of epidemic. In May 1945, the population was over 2.5 million.

Antifascists, Communists and Social Democrats took the initiative in order to normalize public life and induce a new political beginning.

The Soviet army which lost 20,000 soldiers during the liberation of Berlin alone, gave the local population immediate support by providing the people with food and medicine. Soviet officers initiated the reconstruction of the economy and the transport system and made suggestions for a new beginning in intellectual and cultural life.

On 19 May 1945, the first democratic Municipal Council of Greater Berlin was installed. This local body was a broad antifascist and democratic coalition which was led by the working class. Reconstruction was making progress.

According to agreements between the Soviet Union and the other Allies made in 1944–45 armed forces of the United States, Great Britain and France were moved to Berlin in July 1945 in order to take part in the joint occupation and control of the German capital which had become the seat of the Allied Control Council for Germany. In so doing the three Western powers took on the obligation to adhere to the Potsdam Agreement and carry through antifascist and democratic measures in their respective sectors. In June 1948, the Western powers disrupted the four-power administration of Greater Berlin by unlawfully extending the currency reform already introduced in the Western occupied zones to cover the Western sectors of Berlin as well. This currency split was soon followed by the total division of the city.

In December 1948, separate elections for a West Berlin Parliament were held in the Western sectors. Thus the division of Berlin had become a fait accompli. What had historically grown over a period of more than 700 years was disrupted by imperialist circles in an unscrupulous manner. The plan to make West Berlin a component part of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) – founded in September 1949 – was thwarted by an objection from the USSR. The Western powers acknowledged that West Berlin cannot be regarded as part of the FRG.

On 7 October 1949 the German Democratic Republic was



Palace of the Republic.



Platz der Akademie with the Schauspielhaus and the French Cathedral.

founded. As the capital of the first socialist state on German soil, Berlin embarked upon the road into a peaceful future. In this city all progressive achievements and traditions of German history have been preserved.

With great commitment and vigour the Berliners cleared away the rubble. At this time what is now known as Karl Marx Allee was built—a symbol of the city's reconstruction.

However, the socialist construction of the capital of the GDR was constantly hindered by West Berlin. The open border between the capital of the GDR and West Berlin was used for espionage and sabotage, currency speculations, large-scale smuggling of goods and brain drain. Together with the Soviet Union and the other socialist states the GDR made consistent but regrettably unsuccessful efforts to solve the West Berlin problem, which remained unsettled, by way of negotiation.

On 13 August 1961 the government of the GDR, following a recommendation by the member states of the Warsaw Treaty, took measures to secure and reliably control its state border with West Berlin and the FRG. With these steps the GDR helped preserve peace in Europe and made clear the special political status of West Berlin.

Berlin is the hub of the country's political, economic and intellectual life. It is the seat of the supreme governmental bodies of the GDR—the People's Chamber, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers. Here the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) holds its congresses whose decisions point the way in the struggle for peace and social security.

Through its development into the pulsating metropolis of the first workers' and farmers' state on German soil, Berlin has earned itself a completely new reputation in the international arena. Formerly a stronghold of German militarists and imperialists, Berlin now turned into a city of peace and international friendship.

At the beginning of the seventies, important impulses origi-

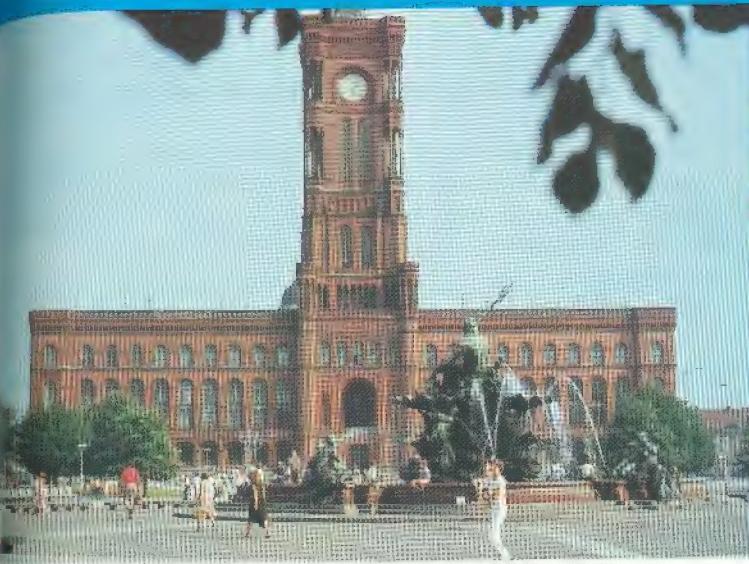
nated from the GDR's capital to bring about a positive change in Europe through abandoning the policy of Cold War and turning to détente. The GDR supported the conclusion of the Quadripartite Agreement on West Berlin in September 1971 which resulted in a perceptible relaxation of tensions at this focal point of world politics.

Berlin became a city of international conferences. In May 1974 for the first time an official UN body came to the city in order to hold a Special Session of the Anti-Apartheid Committee of the United Nations. In October 1975 Berlin was the venue of the World Congress on the occasion of International Women's Year. Other highlights were the meeting of 29 European Communist and workers' parties in June 1976 and the International Scientific Conference "Karl Marx and our Time—the Struggle for Peace and Social Progress" held in April 1983, in which representatives of 145 parties and movements from 111 countries participated.

Heads of state, diplomats and politicians from all parts of the world paid visits to Berlin as official guests, for example from the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, France, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Great Britain etc.

In February 1979 the World Peace Council awarded the capital of the GDR the honorary title "City of Peace", in recognition of its services for peace and understanding among people. Berlin is the origin of numerous initiatives for creating a world-wide coalition of common sense and realism in order to avert a nuclear war which would wipe out human civilization.

Berlin is the largest industrial centre in the country, the most important industries being electronics and electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical industry as well as the light and food industries. Major combines such as the nationally owned Kabelwerk Oberspree "Wilhelm Pieck", Elektro-Apparate-Werk "Friedrich Ebert" and Werkzeugmaschinenkombinat "7. Oktober" play an important role in strengthening the economic potential of the capital. Other combines, for example Auto-



Berlin City Hall.



Shopping street around St. Nicholas' Church.

matisierungsanlagenbau and NARVA Berliner Glühlampenfabrik, have concluded agreements with the Academy of Sciences in order to coordinate their work and cooperate on economic projects. The aim of this exemplary link between science and production is the introduction of key technologies which will help attain a high economic growth rate. The capital's share in the overall industrial output of the GDR amounts to more than 5.4 per cent. Between 1971 and 1985 manufacturing output in industry increased by 114 per cent, and labour productivity by 102 per cent.

This continuous economic growth has been the basis for raising the standard of living of all working people. The housing programme has changed the face of the capital significantly. Since 1971, 250,000 dwellings have been newly built or modernized so that living conditions could be improved for more than 680,000 Berliners. Since 1976 in the north-eastern borough of Berlin Marzahn a new residential area has been erected where more than 170,000 people are now living. Other boroughs—Hohenschönhausen and Hellersdorf—are just being built.

At the beginning of the 1980s modernization and refurbishing of buildings in the inner city assumed new dimensions. The overwhelming part of this housing stock dates back to the turn of this century. Ugly courtyards have been got rid of or given a facelift. One of the most striking examples of modern housing in Berlin is the recently built Thälmannpark residential area. It is situated amidst the traditional working class borough of Prenzlauer Berg, at the site of a former gas works which was pulled down for environmental reasons. This ensemble of high-rise blocks of flats within a newly fashioned park landscape has been given the honorary name of the German working class leader Ernst Thälmann who was murdered by the Nazis. Wilhelm Pieck Strasse, named after the first president of the GDR, is another testimony to the modernization of older housing quarters.

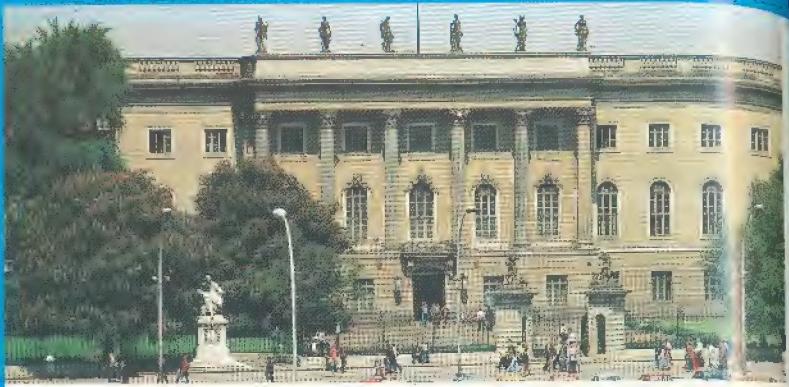
In 1985, the first steps were taken to convert Friedrichstrasse—

one of the arterial roads of former Berlin—into a modern main street. More than 70 per cent of today's housing stock in Berlin was newly built or modernized after 1945. New hotels, department stores, shops, restaurants, the Ernst Thälmann Pioneer Palace, a recreation centre and the new building of the Charité hospital complex have also been built during this period. The pace of construction is without precedent in the long history of the city. Thousands of construction workers, in particular young people from all counties of the GDR, help make Berlin more beautiful, more comfortable and a pleasant city to live in.

The socialist state allocates substantial sums to the preservation of monuments. During the reconstruction of the city centre buildings were restored and preserved which are part of the national heritage or played an important role in the history of the city.

Between 1950 and 1960 such monuments were restored as the world-famous Brandenburg Gate and parts of the historic Lindenforum on Unter den Linden avenue consisting of the Humboldt University, the Deutsche Staatsoper (State Opera House), the Neue Wache (Guardhouse) and the former Zeughaus (Arsenal) which today houses the Museum of Germany History. One of the most well-known squares in Europe, the Platz der Akademie with the Schauspielhaus built by Schinkel, the French Cathedral and the German Cathedral (restoration still underway) has been restored to its original splendour. In the area around the Nikolaikirche, Berlin's oldest restored church, situated as it is between the Rotes Rathaus (Red Townhall) and the river Spree, an architectural ensemble has been erected at the place where Berlin was originally founded which comprises buildings whose facades were shaped in accordance with historical architectural styles and whose dwellings are equipped with all modern amenities.

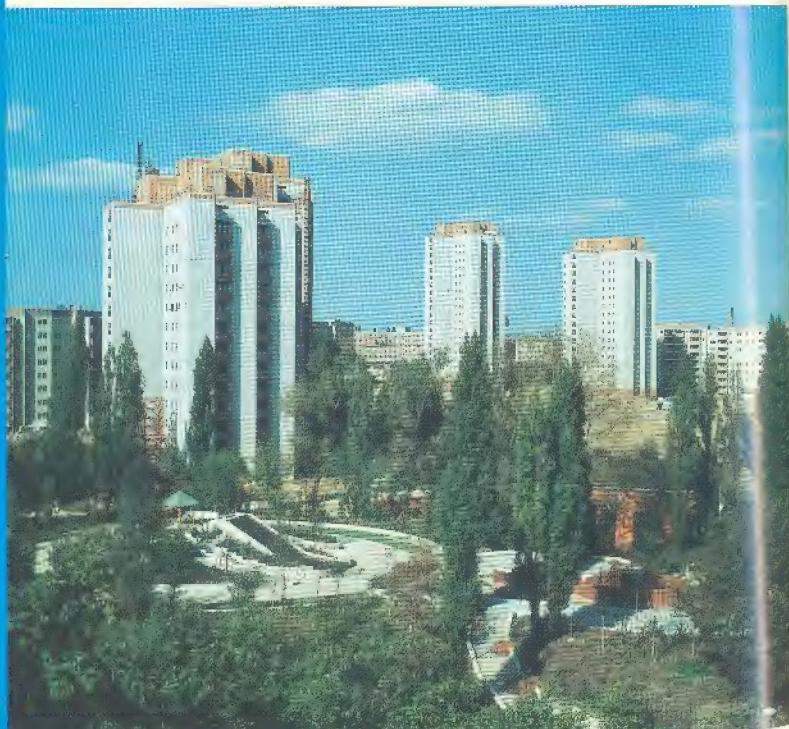
Berlin is an important centre of science. About one fifth of the GDR's academic resources are concentrated here. An outstand-



Humboldt University.



Wilhelm Pieck cable works.



Ernst Thälmann Park housing estate.



Rehabilitated homes in the Berlin borough of Prenzlauer Berg.

ing role in academic life is played by the Academy of Sciences which was founded by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz in the year 1700. The academy was reconstructed in 1946 and today comprises 72 institutes and establishments with a staff of about 23,800.

The Humboldt University is the largest and leading university in the GDR. Today thousands of students are enrolled at this university and the 7 colleges and 17 technical schools in Berlin.

The Academies of Arts, Agricultural Sciences, Pedagogical Sciences, Social Sciences, the School of Architecture and many other institutions make an important contribution to the flourishing of the arts and sciences.

Thanks to the reconstruction of the destroyed theatres and the commitment of world-famous performing artists, for example Eduard von Winterstein, Paul Wegener, Ernst Busch and Helene Weigel, Berlin's theatrical life was able to catch up with international standards at the beginning of the 1950s. Above all, the plays staged by Bertolt Brecht in the Berliner Ensemble as well as Walter Felsenstein's realistic music theatre at the Komische Oper soon came to enjoy great renown all over the world. The Deutsches Theater became known for staging important works of German literary heritage. At present, 13 theatres and 15 stages attached to them offer a wide variety of interesting productions: contemporary and classical plays, satirical revue, variety, opera, operetta, youth theatre and puppet shows.

About 3,000 performances are staged every year which have a total audience of about 1.7 million theatre-goers.

Between 1955 and 1958 the Soviet Union gave back to the GDR all those treasures of art from the Berlin Museum Island which were rescued by the Soviet army in spring 1945 and carefully restored by Soviet experts. Among them were paintings from the Berlin National Gallery, exhibits from the Antiques Collection and, above all, the famous Pergamum Altar.

Thus Berlin regained its former worldwide reputation as a mu-

seum city. Every year, more than 3 million people from all over the world come to visit the 26 museums and galleries in Berlin in order to acquaint themselves with treasures of world culture.

The opening of the Schauspielhaus (concert hall with 1,850 seats) on the Platz der Akademie, which has become the home of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra and the Singakademie, was an important contribution to enriching Berlin's cultural life. Famous symphonic and chamber orchestras as the Wiener Philharmoniker, the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Nouvel Orchestre Philharmonique of Radio France and the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra gave concerts at this historic place.

In 1984 the Friedrichstadtpalast which is famous for its variety shows moved into a new building in Friedrichstrasse. It has a capacity of 1,900 seats and forms part of the familiar Berlin cityscape which combines old and new.

The Counties of the GDR



Trip around Berlin's lakes with the White Fleet.



Sport and Recreation Centre in Berlin.

Cottbus county

Area: 8,262 square kilometres (3,190 sq. miles)

Population: 900,000

Population density: 109 inhabitants per sq. km (282 per sq. mile)

Cottbus county supplies over half of the GDR's lignite and electricity and produces about 80 per cent of the country's total output of urban gas. The largest power generation enterprises are the Boxberg and Jänschwalde power stations and the Schwarze Pumpe gas complex, Europe's biggest lignite refining plant.

The chemical, textile and glass industries are other major elements in the county's economic profile. These include, for example, the synthetic fibre manufacturing plant in Wilhelm Pieck Stadt Guben, the Schwarzheide synthesizing plant and a factory for manufacturing colour television tubes in Tschernitz. The local glass industry accounts for more than half of the country's total output in a number of items. The most important enterprise in Cottbus, the county capital (pop. 125,000), is the textile combine.

Over 40 per cent of the county's area is used for agricultural purposes. In Spreewald, a unique meadowland area in the GDR cut through by hundreds of waterways, market gardening and fish-farming are the dominant industries.

Cottbus county has the second largest forested area in the GDR. With great success, extensive reclamation work is being done on former open-cast mining sites. For example, in the vicinity of the mining town of Senftenberg a new holiday and recreation centre has been built around a man-made lake where a depleted open-cast mining pit left a 1,250-hectare (3,113 acres) trough. 61 out of the county's 113 recreation areas feature bathing beaches: 32 of them were created by landscaping reclaimed mining areas.

Dresden county

Area: 6,738 square kilometres (2,601 sq. miles)

Population: 1,802,000

Population density: 267 inhabitants per sq. km (693 per sq. mile)

Dresden county is one of the most important industrial areas of the GDR. The county capital of Dresden (pop. 520,000) and its environs are a centre of mechanical engineering, vehicle manufacturing, electrical engineering and electronics, microelectronics (e.g. the Robotron combine), and light and food industries. Moreover, there are important metallurgical works, such as the steel rolling mills in Gröditz, Riesa and Freital and a textile industry. Other notable goods which are well reputed also on international markets include X-ray equipment, cameras and pharmaceuticals from Dresden, furniture from Hellerau, and porcelain from Meissen.

Sixty per cent of the county's total area is used for agriculture, and approximately 25 per cent is forestland.

The Technical University of Dresden, the Nuclear Research Centre in Rossendorf, the Manfred von Ardenne Institute and the Hygiene Museum are among the important academic institutions in the county.

The city of Dresden has an international reputation as an artistic and cultural centre. The musical traditions, maintained and displayed by the Staatskapelle, the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra and the Kreuzchor, as well as the valuable art collections (Picture Gallery of Old and New Masters, Grünes Gewölbe, Porcelain Collection and others) are known worldwide. Dresden attracts over

four million visitors each year from around the country and abroad. Places of particular interest include the Zwinger, the reconstructed Semper Opera, palaces and parks (for instance in Pillnitz and Moritzburg) and the new city centre.

The county offers many opportunities for holidays and recreation in the Elbsandsteingebirge, known as "Saxon Switzerland", the Lusatian mountain area, the Zittau Range and ancient towns such as Meissen, noted for its porcelain manufacturing, castle and cathedral, and Bautzen with its more than thousand-year history.

Erfurt county

Area: 7,349 square kilometres (2,837 sq. miles)

Population: 1,237,100

Population density: 168 inhabitants per sq. km (436 per sq. mile)

The economy of Erfurt county is dominated by the combines and enterprises of the electrical engineering, electronics and, particularly, the microelectronic industries. Other important industries include machine, plant and vehicle manufacturing, potash mining, cement production and light and food industries. As a major manufacturer of microelectronic components the Kombinat Mikroelektronik in Erfurt bears great responsibility for boosting science and technology and utilizing modern technologies at an accelerated pace, an important factor in the GDR economy. One quarter of all semiconductor devices and electronic components are produced in enterprises located in Erfurt county.

Other enterprises in Erfurt county constitute a large proportion of the GDR's total industrial output. For instance 100 per cent of electronical typewriters, 90 per cent of all watches and alarm clocks, over 64 per cent of all cold working machinery and shears, almost half of all potash fertilizers, more than one third of all cars (at the Wartburg factory), half of all diesel engines and half of all knitwear are made here.

Farmland accounts for 64 per cent of the county's total area, with woodland comprising a further 22 per cent. For centuries,

the area surrounding the county capital of Erfurt (pop. 212,000) has been a centre of flowergrowing and nursery gardening. Erfurt exports seeds to all corners of the globe, and hosts an annual international horticultural show, known as the iga.

The county is rich in tradition. The poets Goethe and Schiller lived in Weimar. In the early 16th century, Martin Luther translated the Bible into German in Wartburg castle near Eisenach, thus laying the foundations of the modern German language. Thomas Müntzer, the leader of the revolutionary populace in the German Peasants War of 1524-25, worked in Mühlhausen.

Monuments to the workers' movement are located in Eisenach, Erfurt and Gotha. The former Nazi concentration camp in Buchenwald, in the vicinity of Weimar, is an important memorial site, where visitors from around the world reiterate the obligation "Never again fascism, never again war."

Frankfurt (Oder) county

Area: 7,186 square kilometres (2,775 sq. miles)

Population: 706,800

Population density: 98 inhabitants per sq. km (255 per sq. mile)

Once a backward, purely rural area, Frankfurt (Oder) county has developed into an industrial and agricultural area. Its metallurgical products, motor fuel, petrochemicals and newsprint have a solid reputation throughout the country. The county's industrial profile is shaped by a number of industries and enterprises. These include the Ost iron and steel complex and the newly-built town of Eisenhüttenstadt, the petrochemical complex, the pulp and paper plant in the new town of Schwedt, a semiconductor factory in the county capital of Frankfurt (pop. 85,000), the crane works in Eberswalde, and the cement factory in Rüdersdorf.

About half of the total land area is used for farming, 80 per cent of this for crops. The Oder valley is predominantly used for vegetable growing, both outdoors and in hothouses.

Forests, covering about 36 per cent of the total territory, lakes and rivers are ideal for sports, camping and recreation.

In the Seelow Heights a monument has been erected to those who fell in the spring of 1945. In the deciding battle for Berlin, 33,000 Soviet soldiers gave their lives for the liberation of the German people from fascism.

Gera county

Area: 4,004 square kilometres (1,546 sq. miles)

Population: 741,000

Population density: 185 inhabitants per sq. km (479 per sq. mile)

Electrical engineering, electronics and equipment manufacturing have come to dominate industrial production in Gera county. The product range includes special engineering equipment for microelectronics and consumer goods.

The Carl Zeiss Jena combine is known worldwide for its precision opto-electronical instruments. The combine exports to customers in over 100 countries around the world. Gera, the county capital (pop. 132,000), Saalfeld and Zeulenroda are centres of machine tool building. Other important products are synthetic fibre manufacturing in Schwarza, textiles in Greiz, household china in Kahla, industrial ceramics in Hermsdorf and furniture in Zeulenroda.

Approximately half of the territory is used for agricultural purposes, and 37 per cent is forested.

The Friedrich Schiller University, located in Jena, is a centre of learning steeped in tradition. The Zeiss planetarium is another attraction for any visitor to Jena.

This county in the Thuringian region is one of the most popular holiday and recreation centres. Several interesting memorials are located in Gera county, including those to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in Grosskochberg, to the educationalist Friedrich Fröbel in Bad Blankenburg and to the natural scientist Ernst Haeckel in Jena.

Halle county

Area: 8,771 square kilometres (3,386 sq. miles)

Population: 1,791,000

Population density: 204 inhabitants per sq. km (529 per sq. mile)

The industrial profile of Halle county is dominated by the chemical industry. Chemical complexes are located in Leuna and Buna to the south of the county capital of Halle (pop. 239,000), and there is a chemical combine in Bitterfeld and the ORWO film factory in Wolfen. The CMEA special organization for the chemical industry, Interchim, has its headquarters in Halle county.

Other major industries include mechanical engineering and plant construction in Halle and the rolling stock plant in Dessau. Over 50 per cent of all cement in the GDR is produced in Halle county.

Seven institutions of higher learning are located in the county, the best known being the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, the Carl Schorlemmer College of Technology in Leuna-Merseburg and the Institute of Industrial Design at Giebichenstein castle.

The county's 83 nature reserves offer a balance to the industrial landscape, providing opportunities for recreation and relaxation. Seventy-seven museums house art, history and natural sciences collections. The Luther memorials in Wittenberg and Eisleben are internationally known. Memorials to Thomas Müntzer and the German Peasants War are located in Bad Frankenhausen and Heldrungen. An annual music festival and a museum commemorate the composer Georg Friedrich Händel whose birthplace was Halle.

The historical town centre of Quedlinburg, in the Harz Mountains, and the cathedral in Naumburg are other noteworthy sights in Halle county.

Karl Marx Stadt county

Area: 6,009 square kilometres (2,320 sq. miles)

Population: 1,913,500

Population density: 318 inhabitants per sq. km (825 per sq. mile)

Karl Marx Stadt county is a centre of the metal-working industry and of consumer goods production. Main industries are mechanical and automotive engineering and textile manufacturing. All household washing machines produced in the GDR come from there, as do motorcycles with a capacity of over 50 cc which are manufactured in the MZ motorcycle works at Zschopau and the Trabant cars manufactured in Zwickau. Most of the GDR's household refrigerators, drapes and lace are produced in the county as well. Other important industries include electrical engineering, electronics, nonferrous metallurgy and mining. The major enterprise in Karl Marx Stadt, the county capital (pop. 320,000), is the Fritz Heckert machine tool combine. Klingenthal is renowned for its musical instruments and Seiffen for its wooden toys and local handicrafts.

Livestock production is the main agricultural activity in the county.

In addition to its industrial strength the county features prominent educational and scientific institutions. The School of Mining (Bergakademie) in Freiberg, founded in 1765, is the oldest of its kind in the world.

Thirty per cent of the county is woodland. The Erzgebirge and Vogtland regions are popular holiday and recreation areas, particularly for winter sports.

Leipzig county

Area: 4,966 square kilometres (1,917 sq. miles)

Population: 1,384,000

Population density: 279 inhabitants per sq. km (722 per sq. mile)

Leipzig county is marked by a concentration of major industrial and construction combines. Key industries are mechanical engineering and plant construction, chemical production, coal and energy, construction materials, glass, ceramics and printing.

Seventy per cent of the territory is farmland and 13 per cent is covered with forests. Leipzig-Markkleeberg hosts the biennial "agra", the GDR's agricultural exhibition.

Leipzig county is a well-respected centre of science and research. Approximately 38,000 students are enrolled at the nine institutes of higher learning, including the Karl Marx University, and at the 27 technical colleges located there. The colleges of music, graphic art and book design and the German College for Physical Culture (DHfK) are also well known. Tens of thousands of students from 130 countries, particularly from newly independent nations, have attended German language courses at the Herder Institute in preparation prior to enrolment at a university or technical college in the GDR.

Leipzig, the county capital, (pop. 558,000), owes its international reputation primarily to the trade fairs which have been held there for 820 years now. Leipzig is also the second largest industrial centre in the GDR and a major centre of the fur industry. The Deutsche Bücherei, located in Leipzig, is a library that has collected all German-language literature for over 70 years.

The Gewandhaus Orchestra and Thomanerchor exemplify the city's longstanding musical traditions.

The monument to the Battle of Nations, the Renaissance-style town hall, the St Thomas' Church with the tomb of Johann Sebastian Bach and the Bach Museum in the Bosehaus building are among the noteworthy sights in town. The Lenin Memorial and Dimitroff Museum are devoted to significant events in the history of the German and international working-class movement.

Magdeburg county

Area: 11,526 square kilometres (4,450 sq. miles)

Population: 1,252,500

Population density: 109 inhabitants per sq. km (281 per sq. mile)

Heavy industry and plant construction is concentrated in Magdeburg county. The chemical industry, electrical engineering and light and food industries are also located there. Almost 70 per cent of the county's industrial output is produced in combines and enterprises in mechanical engineering and vehicle construction (35 per cent), food processing (20 per cent), and the chemical industry (15 per cent).

Magdeburg, the county capital (pop. 289,000) is an important traffic junction and has the largest inland port in the GDR.

Magdeburg county has the largest farming area in the GDR. It ranks first in livestock farming and excels in livestock and crop production.

The most prominent of the county's educational institutions, which include three colleges and 16 technical schools, is the Otto von Guericke Technical College in Magdeburg. In addition, a number of industrial research centres and scientific institutions specialized on agriculture and food processing are located here.

Approximately one quarter of the territory is forest. Wernigerode district in the Harz mountains is one of the most popular holiday areas in the GDR. The cathedral and cloister in Magdeburg, the cathedral in Halberstadt with its renowned treasures and the feudal museum in the castle of Wernigerode are among the noteworthy sights in the county.

Neubrandenburg county

Area: 10,795 square kilometres (4,170 sq. miles)

Population: 621,000

Population density: 58 inhabitants per sq. km (149 per sq. mile)

Until 1945, the area that is now Neubrandenburg county was one of the most backward parts of Germany. A visit to the agricultural museum in the village of Alt Schwerin gives an impression of how people once lived and worked in the poor villages of the area.

Today, Neubrandenburg is a developed agricultural and industrial county. More than 20 per cent of the county's workforce are employed in industry, the overwhelming majority of them in one of the newly established large-scale enterprises, such as that for food processing machinery or the tyre works in the county capital of Neubrandenburg (pop. 83,000), the fittings plant in Prenzlau, the corrugated cardboard works in Waren or the carpet factory in Malchow.

More than 60 per cent of the land is used for agricultural purposes. Primarily it is used for cereals, potato and sugar beet growing as well as fodder production and as pasture land. The county is self-sufficient in foodstuffs and, moreover, provides food to 1.5 million people in other parts of the GDR.

Extensive forests and over 800 lakes provide holiday opportunities for over 650,000 people annually, and weekend recreation for three million residents of the county.

Sightseeing attractions in the county capital include the almost intact medieval town walls with the four gates, the cultural centre and the new boroughs.

Potsdam county

Area: 12,568 square kilometres (4,852 sq. miles)

Population: 1,121,000

Population density: 89 inhabitants per sq. km (231 per sq. mile)

Potsdam county, the largest in area, developed into an efficient semi-industrial region. Its most important industries include iron and steel (crude and rolled steel), electrical engineering and electronics with emphasis on microelectronics, precision engineering and optical instruments, vehicle manufacture (W 50 lorries), chemicals (polyester and polyacryl fibres), heavy engineering, plant construction and food.

Agriculture accounts for approximately 25 per cent of the county's gross output. Crop production is mainly concentrated on cereals and fodder. The county's livestock production cooperatives supply fatstock, milk and eggs and are engaged in cattle raising. The largest fruit-growing area in the GDR covering some 10,000 hectares and using industrial methods, has been set up in the region of Potsdam and Werder.

Potsdam county features the most extensive forests in the GDR (in total, 420,000 hectares are woodland) and is a major supplier of timber.

Educational and research institutions located in the county include the Academy of Political Sciences and Law, the College of Education, the College of Cinematography and Television, the Institute of Nutritional Sciences and other institutes attached to the GDR's Academy of Sciences.

Attractions in the county capital of Potsdam (pop. 139,500) include the palaces and parks of Sans Souci, which are visited by some two million people from the GDR and abroad every year. Cecilienhof palace, the place where the Potsdam Agreement was signed in 1945, and the sites of the former Nazi concentration camps of Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrück are now places of admonition and contemplation.

Rostock county

Area: 7,074 square kilometres (2,731 sq. miles)

Population: 901,722

Population density: 127 inhabitants per sq. km (330 per sq. mile)

Shipbuilding is the main industry in Rostock county. The major shipyards are located in Rostock (pop. 244,000), Wismar, Stralsund and Wolgast. They build most of the ships for the GDR's merchant and fishing fleets and a whole range of ships for export to many countries. A diesel engine factory and a ship electronics works in Rostock, a communications electronics plant and a fish-processing combine in Greifswald are other vital industries.

Chalk needed for industrial purposes is extracted on the island of Rügen.

Merchant shipping and port operations are prominent branches of the county's economy. The seaports of Rostock, Wismar and Stralsund handle nearly 50 per cent of the GDR's international trade. The ferry services between Rostock-Warnemünde and Gedser, Denmark, and between Sassnitz and Trelleborg, Sweden, are important transportation links to Scandinavia.

Approximately 70 per cent of the land is used for farming, with grain and livestock as the principal branches. Forests account for 16 per cent of the total area.

The major educational institutions are the Wilhelm Pieck University in Rostock and the Ernst Moritz Arndt University in Greifswald. Cultural traditions in the most northerly county of the GDR are upheld by the Navigation Museum in Rostock, the former Franciscan monastery in Greifswald, the Oceanographic Museum in Stralsund, the Gerhart Hauptmann Museum on Hiddensee island and the cathedral of Bad Doberan.

The Baltic coast, stretching over a length of 240 kilometres, with the islands of Rügen, Usedom and Hiddensee is the most popular holiday area in the GDR.

Schwerin county

Area: 8,672 square kilometres (3,348 sq. miles)

Population: 592,000

Population density: 68 inhabitants per sq. km (177 per sq. mile)

The area of what is now Schwerin county was a socially and economically backward rural region until 1945. With major advances made in the 1970s, the county has developed into a modern region with mixed industrial and agricultural structures. The industrial complex in the county capital of Schwerin (pop. 127,000) is one of the newly built production facilities in the county. Mechanical engineering and vehicle construction, light industry and construction materials, and chemical industries account for 48 per cent of the county's industrial production.

Sixty per cent of the total area (approximately 550,000 hectares) is used for agricultural purposes. The county supplies food for some 1.8 million people. Food processing, accounting for 41 per cent of total output, is the most important single industry in the region.

Schwerin county with its 320 lakes is a favourite holiday area. Approximately 20 per cent of the region is covered by forests. Schwerin Palace, located in a historic park, the cathedral and museum are major attractions in the town of Schwerin. The town of Güstrow is well known for its museum to the sculptor and writer Ernst Barlach.

Suhl county

Area: 3,856 square kilometres (1,489 sq. miles)

Population: 550,000

Population density: 143 inhabitants per sq. km (369 per sq. mile)

Suhl is the smallest county in terms of territory and population. Traditional industries include potash mining, timber and toy making, ceramics, tool-making and glass-blowing. New enterprises

have been established in the last 20 years including those for microelectronics, glass-making and ceramics. Spark plugs, electrical household appliances, electronical components, hand tools and sporting goods complement the list of goods manufactured in the area.

Suhl, the county capital (pop. 58,000), is renowned for its hunting and sporting weapons and the Simson motor cycles.

Agricultural land accounts for 38 per cent of the county's total territory. Pasture farming and cattle rearing are the main agricultural activities.

Suhl county occupies about two thirds of the Thuringian Forest. Among the 54 nature reserves in the county, the Vesser Valley, a UNESCO biosphere reserve with an area of 1,384 hectares is the most important.

One million holidaymakers from the GDR and abroad visit Suhl county annually, making it the second largest holiday area in the GDR. The best known of the 100 holiday resorts is the town of Oberhof, a venue for many international luge events and competitions in ski jumping and biathlon.

The PANORAMA DDR
foreign press agency also publishes:



Questions and answers

This booklet attempts to answer questions put by visitors from abroad about life in the GDR. They cover many areas of public life and the way of life in our country. The answers offer a wealth of information on the GDR's foreign policy and its economy, the way in which socialist democracy works, on the younger generation and on education, social policy and the cultural scene. This publication appears in 12 languages.

GDR-facts and figures

This is an annual publication issued in 21 languages. The facts, figures, diagrams and photos it contains present concise information about the state and its citizens, politics, economics and other issues. The focus is on what has been done and what were the highlights of the previous year.

GDR in profile

This is primarily intended to inform younger readers about the GDR. It is published as a folder containing loose, multicoloured sheets which are lavishly illustrated, and lends itself to a wide variety of uses.

Prisma magazine

Prisma is a digest of the GDR press including articles on the political, economic, scientific and cultural scene. It appears quarterly in German, English and French.

The PANORAMA DDR
foreign press agency also publishes:



First-hand information

The "First-hand information" series is published in German, English, French, Spanish, Italian, Finnish, Portuguese, Arabic and Swedish. It provides information on the most important areas of life in the GDR. Titles published to date include the following:

Stable economy—material security

Science for the benefit of society

Education in the GDR

Cultural life in the GDR

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How much say do the trade unions have?

Experiences, Results, Prospects

The "Experiences, Results, Prospects" series gives information on the early years of the GDR and describes the experience it has gathered in building a socialist system of society. Publications in this series appear in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. Titles published to date include:

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The party of the working class and its policy of alliance

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